

SALMON HEARING SUMMARY ON MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

California Salmon Public Hearing			
Date:	March 26, 2019	Hearing Officer:	Mr. Brett Kormos
Location:	Hampton Inn Ukiah, CA	NMFS:	Ms. Peggy Mundy
Attendance:	33	Coast Guard:	
Testifying:	18	Salmon Team Member:	Mr. Alex Letvin
		Council Staff:	Ms. Jennifer Gilden
Organizations Represented:			
Golden Gate Fishermen’s Association, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, F/P Trollers Association, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations			

Opening Remarks

Mr. Brett Kormos provided opening remarks for the hearing. Mr. Alex Letvin of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided a Powerpoint presentation summarizing the recreational and commercial alternatives.

Synopsis of Attendance

Of the 33 people in attendance:

- 11 were primarily interested in the commercial troll fishery (preferred Alternatives I or II).
- 17 were primarily interested in the recreational fishery (all preferred either Alternative I or II).
- Two attendees represented processors. No other ports or community interests were represented.

Synopsis of Testimony

Of the 18 people testifying:

- 11 commented primarily on the commercial troll fishery.
- 7 commented primarily on the recreational fishery.

Commercial Troll Comments

- Need a 27" size limit above and below [Point Arena]. (Six people made this point and outlined the reasons below).
 - The ice machine in Bodega Bay is broken and Fort Bragg’s is bad, but between the two of them we might be able to manage if there is a 27” size limit in both areas, which would allow boats to land in either port.
 - If the Bodega Bay ice machine breaks and we can’t land in Fort Bragg, we’ll have to go to San Francisco. Best to spread everyone out (so they don’t rely on ice from one location). The 26” limit cuts people off.

- Not in favor of the line (dividing size limits between Bodega Bay and Fort Bragg). While you can get to Bodega Bay from Fish Rocks, it's very hard to get back. That line would close Fort Bragg for 100 more days than Bodega Bay is closed, and would curtail fishing in the northern section below Point Arena for no good reason.
- The season should be designed to bring fish back to Fort Bragg. We've never had it where we're cut off if we go below Point Arena. It is not safe for 12-15' vessels to have to go 20 miles to Bodega Bay to unload.
- Would like to move the San Francisco July opener forward to the 1st of July so there is a fishing opportunity there (in Alternative 1). There are usually big fish in the area during that time.
- Very excited about all the early fishing this summer.
- Excited about going salmon fishing for the first time in five years.
- Favor Alternative 1 because it lands more fish statewide, but Alternative 2 would not be terrible.
- Would like to open Fort Bragg for part of September and possibly part of August.
- Include as much of the September and October fisheries as possible in San Francisco. It's important to small boats in the fleet, and it's a good time to fish, with great weather and a higher price.
- Prefer Alternative 2. Also, it would be nice to see 40° 10' instead of Horse Mountain as the management line.
- For Alternative 1, add October 14 and 15.
- Prefer Alternative 2 with a few modifications to spread the burden a little. Prefer the following dates: for Fort Bragg, May 1-10, and below Point Arena, May 1-30; for Fort Bragg and below Point Arena, June 10-30, July 12-31, August 1-15, and September 1-30. (Move dates around).
- Include September and early October in the San Francisco management zone. It seems like a small fishery, but it's the most reliable fishery income available in September, and it has high values which are important to dock sales in Half Moon Bay and to other buyers. Forgoing this opportunity is not worth the potential "credit card" savings the following season. Providing fresh, local, and sustainable seafood in September is one of the most important things we can do to convince people this is a product they want to support.

Recreational Comments

- Prefer Alternative 1 or 2 for the Klamath Management Zone.
- Support Alternative 1 or 2, but not 3. Need to fish June through October. Happy to see business improving.
- Support Alternative 1 or 2. Optimistic about business improving.
- Prefer Alternative 1 or 2. Also in favor of keeping "first two fish" in lieu of a minimum size limit.
- Prefer Alternative 1 or 2. Financial impact of short season could be devastating. Also, not in favor of raising escapement floor above 151K adults.
- Prefer Alternative 1 or 2 for the San Francisco region, and Alternative 1 for the Monterey zone.
- Need fishing time in October. Prefer Alternative 1 or 2 for the San Francisco area. Alternative 3 would negatively affect livelihood.

- Support Alternative 1 and 2, but favor Alternative 1 because it provides more time for Monterey. No closure in summer or fall.
- Support Alternative 1. Believe escapement goal of 151K will be met due to other concurrent fishery openers.
- Need Alternative 1 or 2, not 3. Also support “first two fish.” Last year Fort Bragg had a lot of small fish. Have one option be “first two fish” no matter what the size.

Written Statements (Attached)

- Written testimony from Captain Jared Davis.
- Letter from Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers Inc.
- Letter from Ocean Fresh, LLC.
- Letter from Pacific Seafood.

PFMC
04/02/19

Good evening,

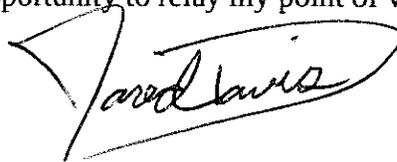
My name is Jared Davis and most of you probably know me as the current owner of the 56' charter boat "Salty Lady." Most of you are probably also familiar with my former employer, mentor and friend Roger Thomas. I am still coming to terms with his passing over a year ago and I imagine his presence in this arena is also sorely missed.

I would like to make it clear, however, that contrary to the belief of some, Roger did not leave me his boat or business or will anything to me. What he did was to offer the opportunity to purchase it at a fair market price from the executor of his estate. We managed to pull that off but suffice it to say that it was a huge stretch for my wife and I. Combined with tens of thousands of dollars in some much needed upgrades and repairs we are still way in the red after one season under our belt.

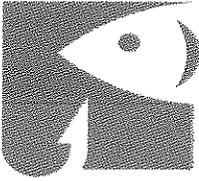
Salmon has been and will continue to be the backbone of the Salty Lady Sportfishing business, and the financial impact of a shortened or restricted season could devastate our chances to make this work. We and thousands of others depend upon a full Salmon season to make ends meet !!

I would urge you to choose the first options on the table and dismiss option three. Closures during June and October would severely and negatively impact our chance for a successful 2019 season. I am also confident that 150,000 adults is an adequate return to regenerate stocks - and an unnecessary raising of the minimum escapement has the potential to hobble our chances in future seasons.

I appreciate your time and the opportunity to relay my point of view. THANK YOU !!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jared Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a hand-drawn, irregular oval shape.

Capt. Jared Davis
Salty Lady
(415) 548-0150



Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers Inc.

P.O. Box 6191, Eureka, CA 95502

Email: hasa6191@gmail.com

FEIN #61-1575751

March 26, 2019

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Phil Anderson, Chairman
7700NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Input on Proposed Salmon Management Alternatives

Dear Chairman Anderson and Council Members:

The Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Inc. (HASA) is a saltwater sportfishing organization with over 300 members representing northern California anglers since 2008. We are encouraged by improvements in the projected 2019 Chinook salmon abundance and resulting improvements in season length compared to recent years. We have carefully reviewed the three 2019 salmon season options proposed for the Klamath Management Zone (KMZ), and offer the following comments. While the differences between the three options are small, our preference would be either Option 1 (May 25-September 8) or Option 2 (May 25-September 4).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the 2019 Proposed Chinook salmon Management alternatives.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott McBain". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott McBain, President
Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Inc.

OCEAN FRESH, LLC

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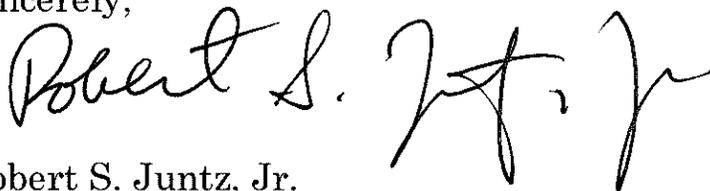
Pacific Fisheries Management Council

RE: Proposed Salmon Management Alternatives

Please increase the Chinook minimum size limit of 26" to 27" so that the boats can unload their catch north of Point Arena and in Fort Bragg.

We understand the ice facility in Bodega Bay may not be functioning and possibly the only other source of ice will be Fort Bragg. This consideration will benefit all parties handling Chinook salmon.

Sincerely,



Robert S. Juntz, Jr.
managing member

Pacific Seafood®

March 26, 2019

To: Pacific Fisheries Management Council

From: Pacific Seafood, Eureka, California

Re: Proposed Salmon Management Alternatives

We support the fleet as well as other processors in California who wish to maintain the legal King Salmon size of 27" coast wide.

The salmon fleet along the coast follow the fish so it is imperative that the legal size be the same for all California ports. Not only that, the market does not want small kings so lowering the legal size to 26" is just a bad idea in general.

Salmon fishing has been a tough game for many years with many ports completely without the opportunity of a season at all. The boats have to travel. And many ports are in bad shape in terms of infrastructure and support for the traveling salmon fleets. In fact, we understand ice in Bodega Bay may be quite a concern this coming season.

If lowering the legal size to 26" in one area of the coast prohibits vessels from traveling back to a port only allowed to sell 27" and larger fish, then we ask that the Council not support this change that would complicate enforcement and the fishery in general.

We appreciate the fact that we may have a decent salmon fishery in 2019 and we thank the Council for all the effort going in to make that happen.

Sincerely,



Rick Harris
General Manager