

PROPOSAL TO TRANSITION FROM PRINTED SALMON REGULATIONS BOOKLETS
TO ONLINE BOOKLETS AND UPDATES

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries is proposing to discontinue printing of annual salmon management regulations booklets in favor of posting the booklets online in a printable format. We are using this opportunity to bring the proposal to your attention and solicit comments from the Council and affected users. Developing, printing, and distributing the booklets is a process that requires, at best, a month to complete and is impossible to complete prior to the start of the fishing season on May 1. With intensive in-season management, portions of the booklet can be obsolete by the time they are received by the user. The booklets are a static document that may no longer be suitable for use in a dynamically managed salmon fishery; in 2010, for example, there were 13 inseason actions that modified the fishing regulations after the 2010 booklet was produced.

NOAA Fisheries would post the booklet in electronic form on the Northwest Region's website and develop an electronic mailing list to notify interested parties of fishing regulations implementation and in-season actions, in addition to existing announcements on the salmon hotline and via United States Coast Guard radio. Such electronic notifications would be similar to those already being used for groundfish fisheries management. Individuals could print the booklet for themselves, either in its entirety or specific pages. NOAA Fisheries proposes to use 2011 as a transitional year in which the printed booklets would be produced and distributed, for the last time, and the information would also be made available online. This would allow time for users to test-drive the new system and sign-up for email notifications. This proposal would benefit the public by providing more timely access to salmon management regulations and accurate updates as the season progresses.

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