1984 OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES REVIEW

Pacific Fishery Management Council

526 S.W. Mill St.

Portland, Oregon 97201

March 1985

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This review was prepared by a team of scientists with special expertise in the salmon resources. Special recognition of the contributions of other Council and NMFS staff is also due.

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INTRODUCTION

This "1984 Ocean Salmon Fisheries Review" is the first of four reports that will be prepared by the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Salmon Plan Development Team (SPDT) and staff economist within the next few months. These reports are developed as a part of the Council's overall salmon fishery management plan (described below) to document and help guide ocean salmon fishery management in the fishery conservation zone (FCZ) from 3 to 200 miles off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California.

The 1984 review provides a concise summary of important data and information from the previous season's fishery and an assessment of how well last year's management actions met Council objectives. The remaining three reports will provide: (1) the status and expected abundance of the various salmon stocks in 1985 with an evaluation of the potential impacts if the Council were to use the 1984 regulations in 1985, (2) an analysis of the impacts of the Council's proposed management regulations developed at the March 1985 Council meeting, and (3) an analysis of the impacts of the Council's final 1985 management recommendations adopted at the April 1985 Council meeting.

Chapter I of this review describes the 1984 ocean salmon management measures recommended by the Council and implemented by the various management agencies. The chapter also provides a summary of the ocean troll and recreational salmon fishing effort and harvests for 1984.

Chapters II and III provide a stock-by-stock assessment of the impacts of the 1984 management measures on chinook and coho salmon stocks. These assessments include management objectives and preseason expectations, ocean and inland harvests, spawning escapements, and a discussion of how well the Council's management goals were achieved for each stock. The socio-economic impacts of the 1984 management regulations are discussed in chapter IV.

Chapter V contains an assessment of the abundance estimators and procedures used by the SPDT in 1984 to make their preseason estimates of stock strength. Chapter VI discusses special management problems and concerns which were important to salmon management in 1984.

To provide an easily accessible and continuous historical record of important fishery data, this review also contains extensive tables arranged in four appendices. These appendices include historical landings, escapements, regulations, and economic data.

Beginning with the 1985 season, the Pacific Fishery Management Council will manage the ocean salmon fisheries under the "Final Framework Amendment for Managing the Ocean Salmon Fisheries Off the Coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California Commencing in 1985." This amendment differs significantly from the previous annual amendments to the 1978 Fishery Management Plan (FMP). It has been designed to serve as a multi-year FMP amendment which should eliminate the need for a new amendment prior to each fishery season. Over time, however, it may be necessary to amend certain portions of this document to reflect improved knowledge of the resource or better management procedures.

The Council's management objectives, escapement goals, basis for harvest allocations, and preseason and inseason management procedures are described primarily as fixed elements within the framework amendment. Procedures for estimating the allowable ocean harvest, actual harvest allocations, and many of the specific ocean salmon harvest controls (such as season length and bag limits) are delineated in more flexible terms. They can be varied within limits each year to meet the expected stock conditions and achieve a desired harvest objective without amending the FMP.