
INTRODUCTION

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and staff of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) have prepared this postseason review of the 2003 ocean salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California to help assess Council salmon management and to provide a detailed description of the affected environment for inclusion in a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis of the 2004 management measures. The STT and Council staff will provide three additional reports prior to the beginning of the ocean salmon season to guide the Council's selection of annual fishery management measures. The reports will provide estimates of stock abundance and analyze the impacts of the Council's proposed and adopted management recommendations and will serve as analyses for alternatives in the NEPA analysis.

West Coast fisheries in Council-managed waters (ocean fisheries between the U.S./Canada border and the U.S./Mexico border from 3 to 200 nautical miles offshore) are directed toward and harvest primarily chinook or king salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and coho or silver salmon *Oncorhynchus kisutch*. Small numbers of pink salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* also are harvested, especially in odd numbered years. There are no directed fisheries for other Pacific salmon species, and they occur rarely in Council-managed harvests.

The Council's annual review of ocean fisheries provides a summary of important biological and socioeconomic data from which to assess the impacts of past management actions, determine how well management objectives are being met, and improve regulations for the future. The Council will formally review this report at its March meeting prior to the development of management options for the approaching fishing season.

Chapter I summarizes ocean salmon fishery regulations and landings within the Council management area and management actions and landings under the jurisdiction of the Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC). Appendix A tables detail historical harvest data by state and by management area.

For chinook and coho salmon, respectively, Chapters II and III assess the achievement of pertinent management objectives by salmon stock (including those listed under the Endangered Species Act), outline the regulations to achieve the objectives, and summarize inside fisheries catch and spawner escapement data. Detailed information for other salmon species is not included, since Council fisheries have very minor impacts on pink salmon escapements and no measurable impacts on sockeye or chum salmon or steelhead trout.

Socioeconomic impacts of the fisheries are discussed in Chapter IV. Appendices B through D provide historical data on inland landings and escapements, ocean regulations, and fishery-related socioeconomics, respectively.

The annual review of ocean salmon fisheries is drafted as early as landings and escapement information is available, and consequently, updated information may become available at a later date. Most recent entries are, therefore, noted as preliminary, and in subsequent years, the preliminary information is generally updated to final status. If updated information, or error corrections that could substantially affect the development of management measures for the upcoming season are available, an errata sheet will be included as an appendix in one of the subsequent STT preseason planning documents.

COMMON TABLE CONVENTIONS

All 2003 data provided in this report are preliminary. The following conventions apply to all tables in this report:

1. Totals may not precisely equal the sum of individual years, due to rounding of numbers.
2. A single dash indicates there are no data appropriate for a particular table cell, or in the case of fishing effort or landings, that the season was closed.
3. A double dash indicates no records are available.
4. "NA" indicates data are not available at the time of publication.