



PFMC Public Hearings on 2008 Season Options

The 2008 troll season options are on pages 2-4 of this newsletter. Public hearings will be held to receive comments on the proposed options. All hearings begin at 7 p.m. at the locations below:

Westport, WA - Monday, March 31, Chateau Westport, Beach Room, 710 W Hancock, 360-268-9101

Coos Bay, OR - Monday, March 31, Red Lion Hotel, Umpqua Room, 1313 N Bayshore, 541-267-4141

Eureka, CA - Tuesday, April 1, Red Lion Eureka, Evergreen Room, 1929 Fourth Street, 707-445-0844

Testimony will also be taken April 8 during the PFMC meeting (April 6-12) at the Seattle Airport Marriott, 3201 S 176th St, 206-241-2000.

Governors' Letter to Secretary of Commerce

On March 14, the governors of Washington, California, and Oregon sent a joint letter to the Secretary of Commerce explaining the findings of the scientific review of West Coast salmon populations to predict their abundance in 2008. This report was presented to PFMC at the March meeting resulting in the three options.

The letter states: "In the event that those fisheries are closed or severely restricted, we hereby request that you declare a fishery resource disaster under section 308(d) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986, and a commercial fishery failure under section 312a of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (MSA)."

"As you know, declaring a commercial fishery failure under the MSA will enable the fishing communities affected by any closure or restrictions to receive vital economic assistance. If the fisheries described above are closed or restricted, those communities will experience economic hardship even more severe than the losses they endured after restrictions were imposed on West Coast ocean salmon fisheries in 2006 in response to the low abundance of Klamath River fall Chinook salmon. Hence, economic assistance will again be critical for the well-being of our fishing communities and states."

"As you know, salmon are a vital component of California, Oregon, and Washington's natural resources and provide significant aesthetic, recreational, commercial and economic benefits to our states. Salmon are also highly valued by Native American tribes for reasons of culture, subsistence and economic benefit. While economic assistance will be essential to address the short-term impacts associated with any closures or restrictions on our salmon fisheries, we recognize the importance of, and will continue our efforts to recover and restore, salmon populations and develop management strategies to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our salmon fisheries."

ODFW Budget Town Hall Meetings

ODFW is creating their agency 2009-11 biennial budget proposal. Members of the public including the four seafood commission administrators are part of the agency's 2008 External Budget Advisory Committee (EBAC). ODFW provided the committee with a preliminary draft of projected revenues and expenditure levels required to continue existing programs in the 2009-11 biennium, as well as information on projected cash balances over the next three biennia. Discussions included options for revenue enhancements (fee increases) needed to sustain adequate ending balances and maintain programs.

The proposal includes commercial fishing industry and related fee increases. Many of these license/permit fees have not changed since 1992.

Fee increases are also proposed in recreational fishing and hunting licenses/permits.

ODFW will be holding public town hall meetings around the state in April to explain the proposed budget and fee increases. This is your opportunity to attend, learn about the budget, and provide your comments. All meetings are from 7-9 p.m.

Portland, Mon. April 7, Monarch Hotel & Conference Center, Clackamas

Bend, Tues. April 8, Central Oregon Community College, Bend

La Grande, Wed. April 9, Island City City Hall, Island City

Ontario, Thurs. April 10, Four Rivers Cultural Center, Ontario

Klamath Falls, Mon. April 14, OSU Klamath County Extension Office, Klamath Falls

Medford, Tues. April 15, Jackson County Fairgrounds, Central Point

Roseburg, Wed. April 16, ODFW SW Region Office, Roseburg

Salem, Thurs. April 17, ODFW HQ Office, Salem

Astoria, Mon. April 21, Holiday Inn Express, Astoria

Newport, Tues. April 22, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport

Coos Bay, Wed. April 23, North Bend Public Library, North Bend

Gold Beach, Thurs. April 24, Gold Beach City Council Chambers

ODFW will present their budget package to the 2009 Legislative Session.

2008 Troll Season Option Descriptions

Option I

North of Cape Falcon

Supplemental Management Information

1. Overall non-Indian TAC: 45,000 Chinook and 25,000 coho marked with a healed adipose fin clip (marked).
2. Non-Indian commercial troll TAC: 22,500 Chinook and 4,000 marked coho.
3. Trade: May be considered at the April Council meeting
4. Overall Chinook and/or coho TACs may need to be reduced or fisheries adjusted to meet NMFS ESA guidance, FMP requirements, upon conclusion of negotiations in the North of Falcon forum, or upon receipt of preseason catch and abundance expectations for Canadian and Alaskan fisheries.

U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon

- May 1 through earlier of June 30 or 15,000 Chinook quota. Thursday through Monday. May 1-5 and 8-12 landing and possession limit of 60 Chinook per vessel for each open period north of Leadbetter Point and 40 Chinook south of Leadbetter Point; beginning May 15, a landing and possession limit of 60 Chinook per vessel for each open period north of Leadbetter Point and 30 Chinook south of Leadbetter Point (C.1). All salmon except coho (C.7). Cape Flattery, Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.5). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).

- July 1 through earlier of September 16 or 7,500 preseason Chinook guideline (C.8) or a 4,000 marked coho quota (C.8.d). Open July 1-2, then Saturday through Tuesday thereafter. Landing and possession limit of 40 Chinook and 25 coho per vessel per open period north of Leadbetter Point and 20 Chinook and 25 coho south of Leadbetter Point (C.1). All Salmon except no chum retention north of Cape Alava, Washington in August and September (C.7). All coho must have a healed adipose fin clip, except an inseason conference call may occur to consider allowing retention of all legal sized coho, in the area between Leadbetter Point and Cape Falcon, no earlier than September 1 (C.8.d). Gear restricted to plugs six inches or longer. See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3). Cape Flattery, Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.5).

(Continued on Page 3)

CROOS Fishermen Sign-Up

If we have any kind of open fishing season and/or are just allowed to conduct at-sea GSI science, and you are interested in participating in the CROOS research collection, please contact the office to add your name to the list of potential participants. If we cannot retain the fish, there will be new training protocols for all participants.

Option II

North of Cape Falcon

Supplemental Management Information

1. Overall non-Indian TAC: 35,000 Chinook and 25,000 coho marked with a healed adipose fin clip (marked).
2. Non-Indian commercial troll TAC: 17,500 Chinook and 4,000 marked coho.
3. Trade: May be considered at the April Council meeting
4. Overall Chinook and/or coho TACs may need to be reduced or fisheries adjusted to meet NMFS ESA guidance, FMP requirements, upon conclusion of negotiations in the North of Falcon forum, or upon receipt of preseason catch and abundance expectations for Canadian and Alaskan fisheries.

U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon

- May 1 through earlier of June 30 or 8,750 Chinook quota. Thursday through Monday with a landing and possession limit of 50 Chinook per vessel for each open period north of Leadbetter Point and 50 Chinook south of Leadbetter Point (C.1). All salmon except coho (C.7). Cape Flattery, Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.5). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).

- July 5 through earlier of Sept. 16 or 8,750 preseason Chinook guideline (C.8) or a 4,000 marked coho quota. Saturday through Tuesday. Landing and possession limit of 30 Chinook and 30 coho per vessel per open period (C.1). All Salmon except no chum retention north of Cape Alava, Washington in August and September (C.7). All coho must have a healed adipose fin clip. Gear restricted to plugs six inches or longer. See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3). Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.5).

(Continued on Page 3)

SOORC Fishermen Group

A fishermen group to discuss ocean resource issues has been formed in the Coos Bay area - SOORC (Southern Oregon Ocean Resources Coalition).

OPAC Meetings in Newport

Ocean Policy Advisory Council Marine Reserve Working Group Meeting is Thurs, March 27 at the Best Western Agate Beach in Newport from 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

OPAC Wave Energy Working Group Meeting will follow the above meeting from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Full OPAC Meeting is Friday, March 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Option III

North of Cape Falcon

Supplemental Management Information

1. Overall non-Indian TAC: 25,000 Chinook and 15,000 coho marked with a healed adipose fin clip (marked).
2. Non-Indian commercial troll TAC: 12,500 Chinook and 2,400 marked coho.
3. Trade: May be considered at the April Council meeting
4. Overall Chinook and/or coho TACs may need to be reduced or fisheries adjusted to meet NMFS ESA guidance, FMP requirements, upon conclusion of negotiations in the North of Falcon forum, or upon receipt of preseason catch and abundance expectations for Canadian and Alaskan fisheries.

U.S./Canada Border to Leadbetter Point

- May 1 through earlier of June 30 or 7,083 Chinook quota. Friday through Monday with a landing and possession limit of 30 Chinook per vessel for each open period (C.1). All salmon except coho (C.7). Cape Flattery and Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area Control Zones closed (C.5). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).

Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon

- May 1 through earlier of June 30 or 1,875 Chinook quota. Friday through Monday with a landing and possession limit of 30 Chinook per vessel for each open period. All salmon except coho (C.7). Columbia Control Zone closed (C.5). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).

U.S./Canada Border to Leadbetter Point

- July 4 through the earlier of Sept. 15 or 3,542 preseason Chinook guideline (C.8) or a 2,400 marked coho quota shared with the south of Leadbetter Point fishery. Open Friday through Monday. Landing and possession limit of 30 Chinook and 30 coho per vessel per open period (C.1). All Salmon except no chum retention north of Cape Alava, Washington in August and September (C.7). All coho must have a healed adipose fin clip. Gear restricted to plugs six inches or longer. Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.5).

Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon

- July 4 through the earlier of Sept. 15 or any remaining Chinook quota from the May-June fishery or (C.8) or a 2,400 marked coho quota shared with the north of Leadbetter Point fishery. Open Friday through Monday. Landing and possession limit of 30 Chinook and 30 coho per vessel per open period (C.1). All Salmon (C.7). All coho must have a healed adipose fin clip. Gear restricted to plugs six inches or longer. See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3). Columbia Control Zone closed (C.5).

(Continued on Page 3)

Option I

South of Cape Falcon

Supplemental Management Information

1. Central Valley rec. fishery allocation ____.
2. Klamath River rec. fishery allocation: ____%.
3. Klamath tribal allocation: _____.
4. Fisheries may need to be adjusted to meet NMFS ESA consultation standards, FMP requirements, other management objectives, or upon receipt of new allocation recommendations from the California Fish and Game Commission.

Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.

- April 15 through May 31. All salmon except coho (C.7). Chinook 28 inch total length minimum size (B). All vessels fishing in the area must land their fish in the State of Oregon. See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3) and Oregon State regulations for a description of special regulations at the mouth of Tillamook Bay. In 2009, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2009 meeting.

Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border (Oregon KMZ)

- April 15 through May 31; All salmon except coho (C.7). Chinook 28 inch total length minimum size limit (B). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3). All vessels fishing in the area must land their fish in the State of Oregon. In 2009, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho, with a 28 inch Chinook minimum size limit. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2009 meeting.

OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ)

- August 1 through the earlier of August 31 or 3,000 Chinook quota (C.9) All salmon except coho. Chinook minimum size limit of 27 inches total length (B). All vessels fishing in the area must land their fish in the area; all fish must be offloaded within 24 hours of any closure (C1). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).

Humboldt South Jetty to Horse Mt.

Closed.

Horse Mt. to Point Arena (Fort Bragg)

- August 1 through the earlier of August 31 or 3,000 Chinook quota (C.9) All salmon except coho. Chinook minimum size limit of 27 inches total length (B). All vessels fishing in the area must land their fish in the area; all fish must be offloaded within 24 hours of any closure (C1). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).

(Continued on Page 4)

Option II

South of Cape Falcon

Supplemental Management Information

1. Central Valley recreational fisheries prohibit Chinook retention.
2. Klamath River rec. fishery allocation: ____%.
3. Klamath tribal allocation: _____.
4. Fisheries may need to be adjusted to meet NMFS ESA consultation standards, FMP requirements, other management objectives, or upon receipt of new allocation recommendations from the California Fish and Game Commission.

Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.

- Closed except for sufficient impacts to conduct experimental genetic stock identification study May 1 through August 31. All salmon must be released in good condition after collection of biological samples.

In 2009, same as Option I

Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border (Oregon KMZ)

- Closed except for sufficient impacts to conduct experimental genetic stock identification study May 1 through August 31. All salmon must be released in good condition after collection of biological samples.

In 2009, same as Option I

OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ)

- Closed except for sufficient impacts to conduct experimental genetic stock identification study May 1 through August 31. All salmon must be released in good condition after collection of biological samples.

Humboldt South Jetty to Horse Mt.

Closed.

Horse Mt. to Point Arena (Fort Bragg)

- Closed except for sufficient impacts to conduct experimental genetic stock identification study May 1 through August 31. All salmon must be released in good condition after collection of biological samples.

(Continued on Page 4)

Option III

South of Cape Falcon

Supplemental Management Information

1. Central Valley recreational fisheries prohibit Chinook retention.
2. Klamath River rec. fishery allocation: ____%.
3. Klamath tribal allocation: _____.
4. Fisheries may need to be adjusted to meet NMFS ESA consultation standards, FMP requirements, other management objectives, or upon receipt of new allocation recommendations from the California Fish and Game Commission.

Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.

Closed.

Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border (Oregon KMZ)

Closed.

OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (California KMZ)

Closed.

Humboldt South Jetty to Horse Mt.

Closed.

Horse Mt. to Point Arena (Fort Bragg)

Closed.

(Continued on Page 4)



Oregon Salmon Commission
P.O. Box 983
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Commissioners

Darus Peake • Chairman • Garibaldi (Fisherman)
Jeff Reeves • Vice Chairman • North Bend (Fisherman)
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Ray Monroe • Pacific City (Fisherman)
Barry Nelson • Winchester Bay (Fisherman)
Mark Newell • Newport (Processor)
Jeff Werner • Gold Beach (Processor)

Staff

Nancy Fitzpatrick, Administrator

Office

P.O. Box 983
Lincoln City, OR 97367
Phone/Fax: 541-994-2647
Email: njf@class.oregonvos.net
www.oregonsalmon.org

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Option I

Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt. (San Francisco)

- August 1 through the earlier of August 31 or 3,000 Chinook quota (C.9) All salmon except coho. Chinook minimum size limit of 27 inches total length (B). All vessels fishing in the area must land their fish in the area; all fish must be offloaded within 24 hours of any closure (C1). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).

Pigeon Pt. to Pt. Sur (Monterey)

- Closed.

Pt. Sur to U.S./Mexico Border (Morro Bay)

- Closed.

Option II

Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt. (San Francisco)

- Closed except for sufficient impacts to conduct experimental genetic stock identification study May 1 through August 31. All salmon must be released in good condition after collection of biological samples

Pigeon Pt. to Pt. Sur (Monterey)

- Closed except for sufficient impacts to conduct experimental genetic stock identification study May 1 through August 31. All salmon must be released in good condition after collection of biological samples.

Pt. Sur to U.S./Mexico Border (Morro Bay)

- Same as above

Option III

Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt. (San Francisco)

- Closed.

Pigeon Pt. to Pt. Sur (Monterey)

- Closed.

Pt. Sur to U.S./Mexico Border (Morro Bay)

- Closed.