

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Off-shore Ocean Salmon Fisheries (0-200 Miles):

Chinook and coho salmon support important commercial and recreational fisheries in off-shore ocean waters off the Oregon coast. These mixed stock fisheries have been managed over the last several years under constraints imposed by stocks listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and by allocation agreements among the states, between the United States and Canada and between the states and treaty tribes. Within these constraints, harvest quotas, seasons and management guidelines are established annually for off-shore and nearshore fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The constraints include:

Chinook:

1. The exploitation rate of all combined ocean fisheries (domestic and international) on wild Snake River fall Chinook is not to exceed 70% of a pre-ESA baseline.
2. The exploitation rate of all combined ocean and freshwater fisheries (domestic and international) on lower Columbia River tule fall Chinook is not to exceed 41%.
3. The ocean harvest rate on northern California coastal fall Chinook is not to exceed 16% as measured by Klamath River Age 4 fall Chinook impacts.
4. At least 50% of Klamath fall Chinook harvest is allocated to tribal fisheries.
5. At least 17% of ocean catch is to be allocated to the recreational fishery in the Klamath Management Zone.
6. At least 15% of the non-tribal harvest of Klamath fall Chinook is to be allocated to the Klamath in-river recreational fishery.

Coho:

1. The overall exploitation rate of Oregon Coastal Natural and lower Columbia River Natural coho is not to exceed 8%.
2. The ocean harvest rate of Rogue and Klamath coho is not to exceed 13%.

In addition to these constraints, Oregon and California have agreed to the principle of fair sharing of harvest in the ocean troll fisheries north and south of the Klamath Management Zone.

Nearshore Ocean Salmon Fisheries (Within 3 Miles):

The State of Oregon can establish salmon fisheries within its three-mile jurisdiction when a number of conditions have been satisfied. These are:

1. A harvestable surplus of specific Chinook stocks is identified.
2. Stocks can be targeted by a specific terminal area ocean fishery.
3. The terminal area fishery will not significantly impact other regional depressed salmon stocks under PFMC or Oregon management plans.

Such fisheries have occurred regularly in the Garibaldi ocean area (targeting Tillamook Bay fall Chinook), the Port Orford ocean area (targeting Elk River fall Chinook), and the Brookings ocean area (targeting Chetco River fall Chinook). In 2006, as part of the Governor's declaration of state of emergency over salmon season closures, the Commission adopted additional terminal ocean fisheries targeting fall Chinook from the Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos and Rogue rivers. In 2007, the Commission adopted similar fisheries (with some modifications) in all terminal areas except the Rogue.

Columbia River and Buoy 10 Fisheries:

Regulations for the Buoy 10 and Columbia River recreational fisheries are subject to negotiations through the North of Cape Falcon process. These negotiations are scheduled for March 18-April 1. Fisheries recommendations will be finalized at the PFMC meeting on April 6-11, 2008.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- The PFMC has advisory committees, which provide input to the regulatory process. The Salmon Technical Team, the Salmon Advisory Sub-panel, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee are made up of industry representatives, state, federal, and tribal scientists, and members of the public from Oregon, Washington, California and Idaho.
- The PFMC will host a public hearing on March 31, 2008 in Coos Bay to receive comments on ocean salmon season options.
- Proposals for nearshore waters will be developed by Fish Division and Region staff in concert with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Oregon State Police and constituent groups.
- Proposals for the Columbia River and Buoy 10 fisheries will be developed in the North of Cape Falcon negotiations that will occur March 18-April 1.

ANALYSIS

The PFMC will adopt 2008 ocean salmon fishing regulations for ocean waters from three to 200 miles off shore (federal jurisdiction) during its meeting April 6-11, 2008. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will be asked to adopt similar regulations for ocean waters from zero to three miles off shore (state jurisdiction) at its meeting on April 18, 2008. The Commission has historically adopted federal regulations without change. Commission policy requires that changes from PFMC actions first be presented to the PFMC with a copy to the Secretary of Commerce, and adopted only after the Commission has received, or waited a reasonable time, for a response from PFMC.

At its March 9-14, 2008 meeting, the PFMC will develop, and release for public review, a set of fisheries proposals for regulating ocean salmon fisheries in federal waters in 2008. A detailed description of the 2008 PFMC options will be provided to the Commission prior to the March 21, 2008 meeting and will be summarized during the staff presentation.

OPTIONS

N/A

STAFF

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ISSUE 2

NEARSHORE OCEAN (INSIDE 3 MILES) COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SALMON FISHERIES SOUTH OF CAPE FALCON

ANALYSIS

In recent years, in response to conservation requirements for Oregon Coastal Natural coho and wild spring Chinook and consistent with ocean fishing regimes adopted by PFMC, the Commission has adopted specialized restrictive regulations in state waters. Staff anticipates the need to restrict nearshore commercial and recreational fisheries in 2008 in response to poor run size forecast including Sacramento fall Chinook, one of the largest contributors to PFMC fisheries off Oregon. Specific options will be presented in April.

In 2006, as part of the Governor’s declared state emergency over ocean salmon season closures precipitated by low spawning escapements forecasted for Klamath fall Chinook, the Commission adopted eight additional ocean terminal fisheries similar to the traditional bubble fisheries off Tillamook, Elk and Chetco rivers. In 2007, the Commission adopted similar (with some modifications) ocean fisheries in all terminal areas except the Rogue. Specifically, the seasons in 2007 were:

Traditional State Water Commercial and Sport Fisheries

1. Commercial Troll State Water Seasons:

- a. Twin Rocks to Pyramid Rock (Tillamook Area): Opened for fall Chinook consistent with federal regulations and extended season during November 1-15. In order to protect local spring Chinook, prior to August 1, in the Terminal Area, only retention of adipose fin-clipped Chinook was allowed.
 - b. Cape Blanco to Humbug Mountain (Elk River Area): Opened for fall Chinook consistent with federal regulations during September 17- December 15.
 - c. Twin Rocks to Oregon-California Border (Chetco River Area): Opened for fall Chinook consistent with federal regulations and extended season during October 15- November 5.
2. Recreational State Water Seasons:
- a. Twin Rocks to Pyramid Rock (Tillamook Area): Opened for spring Chinook consistent with federal regulations March 15- July 31 and opened for fall Chinook consistent with federal regulations August 1- November 15. In order to protect local spring Chinook, prior to August 1, in the Terminal Area, all retained Chinook required to have an adipose fin clip.
 - b. Cape Blanco to Humbug Mountain (Elk River Area): Opened for fall Chinook consistent with federal regulations and extended season during November 1- December 15.
 - c. Twin Rocks to Oregon-California Border (Chetco River Area): Opened for fall Chinook consistent with federal regulations and extended season during October 1-14.

Additional State Water Commercial Fisheries

1. Commercial Troll State Water Seasons:
- a. Cape Falcon to Pyramid Rock (Tillamook/Nehalem River Area): Opened for Chinook consistent with federal regulations September 1-8 and 17-30 or 2,000 fish quota.
 - b. Cape Lookout to Neskowin Cr. (Nestucca River Area): Opened for Chinook consistent with federal regulations September 1-8 and 17-30 or 1,000 fish quota.
 - c. Yaquina Head to 44⁰33'00'' (Yaquina River Area): Opened for Chinook consistent with federal regulations September 1-8 and 17-30 or 1,000 fish quota.
 - d. 44⁰29'00'' to 44⁰23'00'' (Alsea River Area): Opened for Chinook consistent with federal regulations September 1-8 and 17-30 or 2,000 fish quota.
 - e. Heceta Head to 44⁰00'00'' (Siuslaw River Area): Opened for Chinook consistent with federal regulations September 1-8 and 17-30 or 2,000 fish quota.
 - f. Tahkenitch Cr. to 43⁰37'00'' (Umpqua River Area):

Opened for Chinook consistent with federal regulations September 1-8 or 17-30 or 500 fish quota.

- g. 43°31'00" to Cape Arago (Coos River Area): Opened for Chinook consistent with federal regulations September 1-8 and 17-30 or 1,500 fish quota.

ODFW anticipates that late season fisheries in 2008 may be significantly reduced from 2007 due to poor escapements in 2007 and poor forecasts for 2008. Specific options will be presented in April.

OPTIONS

N/A

STAFF

RECOMMENDATION N/A

ISSUE 3

COLUMBIA RIVER AND BUOY 10 FISHERIES

ANALYSIS

Specific fishery options and issues were not available at the time of this writing and depend largely upon fall Chinook and coho abundance forecasts and international and domestic ocean fishing levels. Overall, Columbia River fall Chinook forecasts in 2008 are similar to last year with improvements expected for Bonneville pool fall Chinook hatchery returns. Both wild and hatchery coho forecasts are significantly reduced from last year. Staff will continue to develop options that attempt to provide recreational and commercial fishery opportunities within the fundamental conservation and allocation constraints.

OPTION

N/A

STAFF

RECOMMENDATION N/A

DRAFT MOTION: N/A

EFFECTIVE DATE: N/A