

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

Chinook and coho salmon support important commercial and recreational fisheries in off-shore (3-200 miles under federal jurisdiction) and near-shore (0-3 miles under state jurisdiction) 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 near-shore fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The constraints for fisheries typically 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% (may be lower in 2009).
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% (likely to be higher in 2009, 15% for OCN's and 20% for LCN's).
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.

In 2008, due to the collapse in Sacramento fall Chinook, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) adopted the most restrictive salmon fisheries ever in the history of the west coast. For the first time ever, commercial and recreational Chinook fisheries in Oregon and California south of Cape Falcon were closed. Off Oregon, the only ocean salmon fishery adopted south of Cape Falcon by PFMC and the Commission was a recreational mark-selective fishery for 9,000 coho. The PFMC and Commission adopted limited commercial and recreational

fisheries for coho and Chinook north of Cape Falcon. In 2009, although forecasts for Columbia River Chinook and Columbia River and Oregon coast coho are improved, ocean fishery opportunities south of Cape Falcon could be constrained again by Sacramento fall Chinook due to a record low escapement in 2008 (66,264 that is nearly half the minimum escapement goal of 122k) and likely poor forecast for 2009.

#### 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 17-31. Fisheries recommendations will be finalized at the PFMC meeting on April 4-9, 2009.

## 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.
- Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association and ODFW will sponsor an Ocean Salmon Industry Group meeting on February 26, 2009 to review 2009 forecasts and solicit input on 2009 ocean fishery options.
- The PFMC will host a public hearing on March 30, 2009 in Coos Bay to receive comments on ocean salmon season options.
- Proposals for the Columbia River and Buoy 10 fisheries will be developed in the North of Cape Falcon negotiations that will occur March 17-31.

## ISSUE 1

### **OCEAN COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SALMON FISHERIES**

## ANALYSIS

The PFMC will adopt 2009 salmon fishing regulations for ocean waters from three to 200 miles off-shore (federal jurisdiction) during its meeting April 4-9, 2009. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will be asked to adopt similar regulations for near-shore ocean waters from zero to three miles (state jurisdiction) at its meeting on April 17, 2009. 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 7-13, 2009 meeting, the PFMC will develop, and release for public review, a set of fisheries proposals for regulating ocean salmon fisheries in federal waters in 2009. A detailed description of the 2009 PFMC fishery options will be provided to the Commission prior to the March 20, 2009 meeting and will be summarized during the staff presentation.

OPTIONS

1. N/A

STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION

1. N/A

**ISSUE 2**

**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 and North of Falcon negotiations. Overall, Columbia River fall Chinook forecasts in 2009 are substantially higher than last year (511k vs 367k forecasted and 432k actual in 2008) with improvements expected for Upriver Brights (wild fall Chinook returning to Hanford Reach). Both wild and hatchery coho forecasts for the Columbia River and coast are significantly increased from last year (1.3 million total vs 276k forecasted and 736k actual in 2008). Staff will continue to develop options that attempt to provide recreational and commercial fishery opportunities within the fundamental conservation and allocation constraints.

OPTIONS

N/A

STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION

N/A

DRAFT MOTION

N/A

EFFECTIVE DATE

N/A