

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 percent 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 38 percent (may be lower in 2010).
3. The ocean harvest rate on northern California coastal fall Chinook is not to exceed 16 percent as measured by Klamath River Age 4 fall Chinook impacts.
4. Minimum ocean escapement to attain MSY spawner goal of 5,700 for North Fork Lewis River fall Chinook.

Coho:

1. The total marine and freshwater exploitation rate of Oregon Coastal Natural and lower Columbia River Natural coho is not to exceed 15 and 20 percent, respectively.
2. The ocean harvest rate of Rogue and Klamath coho is not to exceed 13 percent.

In 2009, due to the continued decline of Sacramento fall Chinook, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) again adopted the most restrictive salmon fisheries ever in the history of the west coast. Similar to 2008, in 2009 ocean commercial and recreational fisheries for chinook off Oregon and California south of Cape Falcon were closed. Due to increased abundance in hatchery coho, the PFMC and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) adopted one of the largest quotas in recent years for coho in the recreational fishery (117k) and a 11k quota for coho in the commercial fishery. For north of Falcon, the PFMC and Commission adopted similar commercial and recreational fisheries for Chinook as 2008 but much higher quotas for coho. In 2010, although forecasts for Columbia River Chinook and Columbia River and Oregon coast coho may continue to be above average, ocean fishery opportunities

for Chinook south of Cape Falcon could be again constrained by Sacramento fall Chinook due to another low escapement in 2009 and possible below average forecast for 2010. Escapement and forecast data are not available at this time but will be made available to the Commission along with options for ocean salmon fisheries at the March 12, 2010 Commission meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- The PFMC has advisory committees, which provide public 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 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will sponsor an Ocean Salmon Industry Group (OSIG) meeting on February 25, 2010 to review 2010 forecasts and solicit input on 2010 ocean fishery options. Presentation to OSIG will be provided to the Commission on March 12, 2010.
- The PFMC will host a public hearing on March 29, 2010 in Coos Bay to receive comments on ocean salmon season options.
- Proposals for the Columbia River ocean and Buoy 10 fisheries will be developed in the North of Cape Falcon negotiations that will occur March 16-April 6.

ISSUE 1

OCEAN COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SALMON FISHERIES

ANALYSIS

The PFMC will adopt 2010 salmon fishing regulations for ocean waters from three to 200 miles off-shore (federal jurisdiction) during its meeting April 10-15, 2010. The 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 23, 2010. 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 6-12, 2010 meeting, the PFMC will develop, and release for public review, a set of fisheries proposals for regulating ocean salmon fisheries in federal waters in 2010. A detailed description of the 2010 PFMC fishery options will be provided to the Commission at the March 12, 2010 meeting and will be summarized during the staff presentation.

OPTIONS

1. N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. N/A