

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) adopted 2011 ocean salmon fishing regulations on **April 14**, 2011 for ocean waters from three to 200 miles off shore (federal jurisdiction). The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is asked to adopt similar regulations for ocean waters from zero to three miles off shore (state jurisdiction).

Approved ocean salmon seasons by the PFMC in recent years have been structured to address conservation requirements for Oregon coastal and lower Columbia River wild coho and various chinook populations of concern including fall chinook from the Klamath and Sacramento basins.

With improvements in Oregon coastal fall chinook observed last year and forecasted for 2011, the Department will propose relaxing restrictions in fall chinook ocean terminal sport and commercial fisheries as well as river sport fisheries in 2011 that will be addressed at the June Commission meeting. Meetings to solicit public input on fall chinook ocean terminal and river fishery options and new wild coho sport fisheries in select rivers will be held April 26 in Gold Beach and Coos Bay, April 27 in Newport, and April 28 in Tillamook.

ISSUE 1

OCEAN SPORT AND COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHERIES

ANALYSIS

On **April 14**, 2011, the PFMC adopted regulations for ocean sport and commercial fisheries off Oregon. Due to the improved status of Sacramento fall chinook, the PFMC is expected to adopt more liberal ocean chinook fisheries off Oregon south of Cape Falcon. Likely some of the most significant ocean fisheries for chinook since 2007. Coho fisheries South of Cape Falcon are expected to be similar to recent years and may include some non-selective fishing opportunities late in the season. For ocean fisheries north of Cape Falcon, it is expected that PFMC may adopt larger quotas for chinook fisheries due to higher forecasts of Columbia River chinook but reduced quotas for coho fisheries due to lower forecast of hatchery coho primarily from the Columbia River. Details of the season structures and quotas adopted by the PFMC for commercial, recreational and tribal fisheries will be provided at the Commission meeting.

OPTIONS

Option 1. Adopt the federal regulations for state waters as proposed in Attachment 5.

Option 2. Modify the federal regulations.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION** Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION I move to adopt the 2011 ocean sport and commercial salmon seasons as proposed by staff in Attachment 5.

EFFECTIVE DATE May 1, 2011