

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) annual salmon fishery planning process begins with preparation of preliminary documents from the PFMC Salmon Technical Team (STT) summarizing salmon forecasts for the coming year. Prior to the first PFMC meeting, ODFW meets with the Ocean Salmon Industry Group (OSIG) to review the information and begin public discussions of season structures.

The PFMC adopts three preliminary season options at their March meeting. These options are intended to reflect a range of potential management approaches to allow for public comment. The PFMC meets again in April to review, modify (if needed), and adopt a final set of fishery regulations. This may be based on a single alternative in its entirety, or more commonly, it may be comprised of portions of different alternatives to create a composite alternative.

The 2016 PFMC meeting was held in Sacramento, CA March 9-14. Attachment 3, *Preseason Report 1: Stock Abundance Analysis* summarizes the three alternatives adopted for public review. The PFMC will now conduct additional public meetings and receive public comment before reconvening in April to make final decisions on 2016 fisheries. Following this meeting, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will be asked to adopt concurrent regulations for state waters on April 22.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Schedule of public meetings for 2016 salmon fishery planning.

Feb. 25	Ocean Salmon Industry Group Meeting	Newport, OR
Mar. 9-14	Pacific Fishery Management Council	Sacramento, CA
Mar. 17	Columbia River/Ocean Fisheries Discussion	Vancouver, WA
Mar. 28	PFMC Public Options Hearing	Coos Bay, OR
Apr. 6	North of Falcon / Columbia River	Olympia, WA
Apr. 9-14	Pacific Fishery Management Council	Vancouver, WA
Apr. 22	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission	Bandon, OR

ISSUE 1

OCEAN COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SALMON FISHERIES

ANALYSIS

For Chinook, the primary stocks that drive Oregon coast fisheries are Sacramento River, Klamath River, Columbia River, and Oregon coastal stocks. The southern stocks are drivers for central and southern Oregon fisheries while the Columbia River and Oregon coastal stocks are drivers for northern Oregon fisheries.

The primary constraints for Oregon Chinook fisheries are normally the exploitation rate limitations on Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed lower Columbia natural tule Chinook and harvest rate limitations on ESA-listed coastal California fall Chinook. The primary constraints for Oregon coho fisheries are exploitation rate limitations on Oregon coast natural and lower Columbia River natural coho, which are both ESA-listed.

For Oregon coast natural coho, relatively low spawner returns in the North coast in the parent year (2013) resulted in a 20% limit for 2016. While this is a higher rate than the 15% in 2015, the increase is a result of an estimated 2013 return to the North coast populations that is only 156 fish over the threshold between 15% and 20%.

ODFW also anticipates continuing at least some in-river wild coho fishery opportunities. It is likely that opportunities in the North coast will be similar or less than 2015 for the North coast, and about the same as 2015 for the remainder.

Forecasts of key salmon stocks.

Stock	2015 Actual	2016 Forecast
<u>Chinook</u>		
Lower Columbia tule ¹	295,100	223,200
Columbia Upriver Bright ¹	966,500	690,000
Total Columbia (all stocks) ¹	1,261,600	913,200
Sacramento River ²	255,300	299,600
Klamath River ²	241,200	142,000
<u>Coho</u>		
Columbia River (total) ²	251,700	396,500
Lower Columbia River natural ²	17,900	40,000
Oregon Coast natural ²	70,400	152,700

¹Hatchery and wild, abundance is measured at Columbia River mouth.

²Pre-fishery ocean abundance, Columbia total number includes the natural component.

Key impact limitations for 2016 ocean fisheries.

Stock	Limitation or Constraint
<u>Chinook</u>	
L. Columbia R. wild tule	≤41% total exploitation rate
California Coastal	≤16% ocean fisheries harvest rate
Klamath River escapement	≥40,700 target natural escapement
<u>Coho</u>	
Oregon Coastal Natural	≤20% total exploitation rate
L. Columbia Natural	≤18% total exploitation rate

For 2015, adopted salmon regulations included re-opening ocean fisheries in some areas March 15 through April 30, 2016. At the March PFMC meeting, initial modeling results demonstrated that allowing the Oregon March troll opening to occur as scheduled would have resulted in high catches of Klamath River Chinook that would have led to unacceptable constraints to fisheries later in the year. An inseason action was taken to modify these dates.

OPTIONS

1. N/A

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

1. N/A