

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 2018 PFMC meeting was held in Rohnert Park, CA March 9-14. Attachment 2, *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 2018 fisheries. Following this meeting, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will be asked to adopt concurrent regulations for state waters on April 20.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Schedule of public meetings for 2018 salmon fishery planning.

Feb. 27	Ocean Salmon Industry Group Meeting	Newport, OR
Mar. 9-14	Pacific Fishery Management Council	Rohnert Park, CA
Mar. 16	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission	Salem, OR
Mar. 19	Columbia River/Ocean Fisheries Discussion	Ridgefield, WA
Mar. 26	PFMC Public Options Hearing	Coos Bay, OR
Apr. 2	North of Falcon / Columbia River	Ridgefield, WA
Apr. 6-11	Pacific Fishery Management Council	Portland, OR
Apr. 20	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission	Astoria, 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. In 2017, significant restrictions in Oregon and California fisheries were required to meet harvest control rules specified under the PFMC Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Klamath River fall Chinook; a situation that is likely to be continued in 2018.

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. Forecasts for Oregon coast natural Coho have overestimated the actual return in each of the last three years.

Table 1 below illustrates the forecasted abundances of key Chinook and Coho stocks for 2018, as well as the 2017 observed abundances. Table 2 outlines key constraints, generally ESA-impact limitations, expected to affect 2018 fisheries.

Table 1. Forecasts of key salmon stocks [in thousands of fish]

Stock	2017 Actual	2018 Forecast
<u>Chinook</u>		
Columbia River Tule ¹	TBD	TBD
Columbia River Brights ¹	TBD	TBD
Other	TBD	TBD
Total Columbia (all stocks) ¹	TBD	TBD
Sacramento River ²	TBD	TBD
Klamath River ²	TBD	TBD
<u>Coho</u>		
Columbia River (total) ²	279.3	286.2
Lower Columbia River natural ²	TBD	TBD
Oregon Coast natural ²	TBD	TBD

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

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

Table 2. Key impact limitations for 2018 ocean fisheries.

Stock	Limitation or Constraint
<u>Chinook</u>	
L. Columbia R. wild tule	TBD
California Coastal	≤16% ocean fisheries harvest rate
Sacramento River escapement	TBD
Klamath River escapement	TBD
<u>Coho</u>	
Oregon Coastal Natural	15%
L. Columbia Natural	18%

For 2017, adopted salmon regulations included re-opening some ocean fisheries in some areas March 15 through April 30, 2018. At the time of this writing, the March 2018 PFMC meeting had not yet occurred, but staff expects that the Oregon March troll opening will be rescinded early in that meeting process.

OPTIONS

1. N/A

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

1. N/A