

Exhibit E

Ocean Salmon Fisheries Informational Briefing

Supplemental Agenda Item Summary

March 15, 2021

Replaces Page 3 **Table 2** –

- Added the 2020 Actual and 2021 Forecast fall Chinook salmon data for the Sacramento and Klamath Rivers.
- Added the 2021 Forecast coho salmon data for the Lower Columbia River natural component.

Replaces Page 4 **Table 3** – Added the key impact limitations for 2021 Oregon ocean fisheries limitation or constraint for:

- Klamath River wild spawning escapement, and
- Sacramento River total spawning escapement goals.



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

While not available at the time of this writing, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will be briefed on the three PFMC March Alternatives at their March 19, 2021 meeting. Rulemaking will occur at the April 2021 Commission meeting.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) annual salmon fishery planning process begins with preparation of 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). Annual OSIG meetings are open to the public and provide a forum for staff to inform the OSIG and others about annual forecasts and fishery constraints, which usually leads to public discussions and feedback from the OSIG on preferred fishery options. This in turn informs ODFW staff as they begin the annual planning process.

At their March meeting, the PFMC reviews prior year fisheries, current year forecasts, and status and conservation needs for salmon stocks encountered in PFMC fisheries. By the end of the March meeting, the PFMC will adopt three different preliminary season alternatives for public review. 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 and adopt a final set of fishery regulations. These may be based on a single alternative in its entirety or more commonly, it may be comprised of portions of different alternatives. The PFMC then transmits the proposed regulations to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), who implement the fisheries under their rulemaking authorities.

In 2021, the PFMC meeting were scheduled for March 4-11 and hosted virtually. *Preseason Report 2: Stock Abundance Analysis* (in preparation) summarizes the three alternatives adopted for public review. The PFMC will conduct additional public meetings and receive public comment before reconvening in April to make final decisions on 2021 fisheries. The Commission will be asked to adopt concurrent regulations for state waters at their April 23, 2021 meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement in ocean salmon fishery planning is extensive and occurs in several forums from late February through mid-April every year (Table 1). The first public meeting in Oregon, the OSIG meeting, occurs annually during the last week of February. While many who attend OSIG are participants in the commercial troll and recreational Charter sectors and related businesses, the meeting is open to the public and is routinely attended by anglers and other individuals not directly associated with fishing dependent businesses.

The OSIG meeting is followed by the March PFMC meeting. PFMC meetings are open to the public and testimony is allowed throughout the daily meetings. The PFMC also utilizes citizen

advisory panels to review fisheries proposals and provide recommendations to the PFMC on potential management measures. For salmon management, the advisory panel is the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS). The SAS assists the PFMC in developing alternatives for salmon season structures throughout the March and April meeting process. During both of these approximately week-long meetings, the PFMC will repeatedly review and refine the developing alternatives, sometimes more than once each day. Opportunity for public comment is provided at each of these intervals.

Following the March PFMC meeting, staff from ODFW and WDFW will conduct public meetings specific to Columbia River summer and fall salmon fisheries as part of the larger North of Falcon (NOF) process. The first meeting is to overview the three alternatives from the March PFMC meeting and discuss the interaction between those alternatives and Columbia River season planning. The Columbia River NOF process includes public input and close interaction between agency staff and attendees to discuss and vet different fishery ideas.

The March OFWC meeting provides an opportunity for the Commission to review the three PFMC alternatives as well as for the public to comment to the Commission and staff on the alternatives or related issues.

The PFMC will hold public hearings (virtual this year) in Oregon, Washington, and California in late March, to provide opportunities for the public who may not attend the full PFMC meetings. In addition to public input gathered from these local meetings, the PFMC also solicits written public testimony.

ODFW and WDFW will convene another Columbia River NOF public meeting before the April PFMC meeting. This second NOF meeting is generally used to update attendees on further analyses that has been done by staff based on input from the first meeting.

The April PFMC meeting will result in final proposals for salmon fisheries as recommendations from PFMC to NMFS. The April process is much the same as the March process, including opportunities for public comment.

Finally, the OFWC will be asked at their April meeting to adopt regulations for Oregon state waters that match those recommended by PFMC. Public testimony is also accepted at this meeting.

Table 1. Schedule of Virtual Public Meetings for 2021 Salmon Fishery Planning

Feb. 25	Ocean Salmon Industry Group Meeting
Mar. 3-5, 8-11	Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mar. 17	North of Falcon Meeting, Columbia River Proposals
Mar. 19	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Mar. 24	PFMC Public Options Hearing (Oregon)
Apr. 1	North of Falcon Meeting, Columbia River Discussion
Apr. 6-9, 12-15	Pacific Fishery Management Council
Apr. 23	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

ISSUE 1

OCEAN COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL SALMON FISHERIES

ANALYSIS

The primary stocks that drive Oregon ocean fisheries for Chinook Salmon are fall Chinook stocks from the Sacramento River, Klamath River, and Columbia River. In southern Oregon, Rogue River fall Chinook Salmon can also be an important contributor to ocean fisheries. The southern stocks are drivers for central and southern Oregon fisheries, while the Columbia River stocks are drivers for northern Oregon fisheries.

There are several constraints for Oregon Chinook Salmon ocean fisheries, and which of them will be the primary determinant(s) of fishing opportunity varies depending on annual conditions. These constraints normally include: Exploitation Rate (ER) limitations on Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed lower Columbia River natural Tule fall Chinook Salmon, harvest rate limitations on ESA-listed Coastal California fall Chinook Salmon, and harvest control rules for Sacramento and Klamath River fall Chinook Salmon, as specified under the PFMC Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

The primary constraint for Oregon Coho Salmon fisheries is usually the ER limitations on ESA-listed Oregon coast natural Coho Salmon, though in some years ER limitations for ESA-listed lower Columbia River natural Coho Salmon may be more constraining.

Table 2 summarizes the forecasted abundances of key Chinook and Coho salmon stocks for 2021, as well as the 2020 observed abundances. Table 3 outlines key constraints, including ESA-impact limitations, expected to affect 2021 fisheries.

Table 2. Preliminary forecasts of key salmon stocks (in thousands of fish).

Stock	2020 Actual	2021 Forecast
<u>Fall Chinook Salmon</u>		
Columbia River Tule ¹	130.6	119.9
Columbia River Brights ¹	408.7	440.9
Other	35.4	20.0
Total Columbia (all stocks) ¹	574.7	580.8
Sacramento River ²	351.9	271.0
Klamath River ²	173.7	181.5
<u>Coho salmon</u>		
Columbia River (total) ²	363.6	1,590.0
Lower Columbia R. natural ²	37.1	39.2
Oregon Coast natural ²	110.0	125.0

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

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

Table 3. Key impact limitations for 2021 Oregon ocean fisheries.

Stock	Limitation or Constraint
Fall Chinook Salmon	
L. Columbia R. wild Tule (ESA)	≤38% total exploitation rate
California Coastal (ESA)	≤16% ocean fisheries harvest rate
Klamath River wild spawning escapement goal	≥31,600
Sacramento River total spawning escapement goal	122,000-180,000
Coho Salmon	
Oregon Coastal natural (ESA)	≤15% total exploitation rate
Lower Columbia River natural (ESA)	≤30% total exploitation rate

Federal regulations adopted in 2020 include opening for Oregon commercial troll and recreational Chinook Salmon fisheries on March 15, 2021. The March commercial troll fishery opener is usually rescinded following PFMC review at its March meeting in order to better utilize available impacts later in the season. The recreational fishery catches few Chinook Salmon annually and of those, very few in March. Therefore, modifying the March 15 recreational opener is usually not necessary.

OPTIONS

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A

DRAFT MOTION

N/A