

## 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 2017 PFMC meeting was held in Vancouver, WA March 7-13. Attachment 3, *Preseason Report 1: Stock Abundance Analysis* includes preseason abundance estimates and modeling of last year's fishery structures on top of this year's abundances. The PFMC will now conduct additional public meetings and receive public comment before reconvening in April to make final decisions on 2017 fisheries. Following this meeting, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will be asked to adopt concurrent regulations for state waters on April 21.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

#### Schedule of public meetings for 2017 salmon fishery planning.

Feb. 27	Ocean Salmon Industry Group Meeting	Newport, OR
Mar. 7-13	Pacific Fishery Management Council	Vancouver, WA
Mar. 17	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission	Corvallis, OR
Mar. 24	Columbia River/Ocean Fisheries Discussion	Vancouver, WA
Mar. 27	PFMC Public Options Hearing	Coos Bay, OR
Apr. 5	North of Falcon / Columbia River	Olympia, WA
Apr. 6-12	Pacific Fishery Management Council	Sacramento, CA
Apr. 21	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission	Klamath Falls, 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 2016, efforts to meet minimum escapement targets for Klamath River fall Chinook were the primary constraint on Oregon and California Chinook fisheries; a situation that is likely to be continued in

2017.

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.

Table 1 below illustrates the forecasted abundances of key Chinook and coho stocks for 2017, as well as the 2016 observed abundances. Table 2 outlines key constraints, generally ESA-impact limitations, expected to affect 2017 fisheries.

Table 1. Forecasts of key salmon stocks.

Stock	2016 Actual	2017 Forecast
<u>Chinook</u>		
Columbia River Tule <sup>1</sup>	126,500	250,800
Columbia River Brights <sup>1</sup>	494,900	305,600
Other	19,700	26,200
Total Columbia (all stocks) <sup>1</sup>	641,100	582,600
Sacramento River <sup>2</sup>	205,000	230,700
Klamath River <sup>2</sup>	67,300	52,600
<u>Coho</u>		
Columbia River (total) <sup>2</sup>	233,800	386,300
Lower Columbia River natural <sup>2</sup>	16,000	33,000
Oregon Coast natural <sup>2</sup>	83,200	101,900

<sup>1</sup>Hatchery and wild, abundance is measured at Columbia River mouth.

<sup>2</sup>Pre-fishery ocean abundance, Columbia coho total includes the LCR natural component.

Table 2. Key impact limitations for 2017 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
Sacramento River escapement	≥122,000 target escapement
Klamath River escapement	≥11,400 target escapement
<u>Coho</u>	
Oregon Coastal Natural	≤30% total exploitation rate
L. Columbia Natural	≤18% total exploitation rate

For 2016, adopted salmon regulations included re-opening ocean fisheries in some areas March 15 through April 30, 2017. At the time of this writing, the March 2017 PFMC meeting had not yet occurred, but staff expects that the Oregon March troll opening will be rescinded early in that meeting process in order to preserve limited Klamath River Chinook impacts for more substantive fisheries to occur later in the season.

**OPTIONS**

1. N/A

**STAFF  
RECOMMENDATION**

1. N/A