

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 2019 PFMC meeting was held in Vancouver, WA March 5-12. *Preseason Report 2: Stock Abundance Analysis* (in preparation) will summarize 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 2019 fisheries. Following this meeting, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) will be asked to adopt concurrent regulations for state waters on April 19.

Schedule of public meetings for 2019 salmon fishery planning.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Feb. 28	Ocean Salmon Industry Group Meeting	Newport, OR
Mar. 5-12	Pacific Fishery Management Council	Vancouver, WA
Mar. 15	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission	Salem, OR
Mar. 18	Columbia River/Ocean Fisheries Discussion	Ridgefield, WA
Mar. 25	PFMC Public Options Hearing	Coos Bay, OR
Mar. 28	North of Falcon / Columbia River	Ridgefield, WA
Apr. 2	North of Falcon / Columbia River	Ridgefield, WA
Apr. 9-16	Pacific Fishery Management Council	Rohnert Park, CA
Apr. 19	Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission	St. Helens, 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 2018, significant restrictions in Oregon and California fisheries were required to meet harvest control rules specified under

the PFMC Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Sacramento and Klamath River 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. 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 2019, as well as the 2018 observed abundances. Table 2 outlines key constraints, generally ESA-impact limitations, expected to affect 2019 fisheries.

Table 1. Forecasts of key salmon stocks [in thousands of fish]. (Several stocks not available at time of initial publication. Table will be updated prior to March 15 hearing.)

Stock	2018 Actual	2019 Forecast
<u>Chinook</u>		
Columbia River Tule ¹	79.3	100.5
Columbia River Brights ¹	207.6	236.8
Other	4.1	3.1
Total Columbia (all stocks) ¹	291.0	340.4
Sacramento River ²	230.7	379.6
Klamath River ²	409.0	274.2
<u>Coho</u>		
Columbia River (total) ²	147.3	905.6
Lower Columbia R. natural ²	30.0	36.9
Oregon Coast natural ²	81.3	76.1

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 2019 ocean fisheries. (Several stocks not available at time of initial publication. Table will be updated prior to March

Stock	Limitation or Constraint
<u>Chinook</u>	
L. Columbia R. wild tule	38%
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	23%

15 hearing.)

For 2018, adopted salmon regulations included re-opening some ocean fisheries in some areas March 15 through April 30, 2019. At the time of this writing, the March 2019 PFMC meeting had not concluded, 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