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The Newsletter of the Oregon Salmon Commission

April 2008

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### **2008 Salmon Season Closure**

For three consecutive years, dismal salmon returns have resulted in disastrous seasons for West Coast fishermen and the communities that rely on the business they create.

On Thursday, April 10, 2008, the Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted the most restrictive salmon fisheries in the history of the West Coast, in response to the unprecedented collapse of Sacramento River fall Chinook and the exceptionally poor status of coho salmon from Oregon and Washington. South of Cape Falcon, on Oregon's north coast, to the U.S./Mexico border will be closed in 2008, with fisheries north of Cape Falcon to the Canadian line being severely restricted. This recommendation will be forwarded to the National Marine Fisheries Service for approval by May 1.

PFMC Chairman Don Hansen told that there will be a huge impact on the people who fish for a living, those who eat wild-caught king salmon, those who enjoy recreational fishing, and the businesses and coastal communities dependent on these fisheries.

(See pg. 2 - 2008 Commercial Salmon Season Regulations)

### **THANKS - Oregon Delegation at PFMC**

A huge THANK YOU to the entire Oregon delegation at the PFMC meetings for working so hard to try and get an Oregon season or at least catch and release for the CROOS project. We know that this group worked hard for our Oregon fishermen and we all appreciate your efforts.

### **Rep. Hooley Holds Salmon Disaster Public Forum**

Representative Darlene Hooley held a public forum on Sunday April 20 in Newport to discuss and listen to the industry about the salmon disaster. Many state agencies as well as the Governor's office were represented at the meeting and available for industry questions. Several state legislators were also present echoing the need to support our fisheries and coastal communities.

According to Rep. Hooley, CA, OR, and WA delegates are united in their message in asking for a Fishery Failure declaration and direct payments to fishermen and businesses. The supplemental budget is coming up soon, and they hope to have the disaster package included. Bob Lohn of NOAA was present and said that the Fishery Failure is just the starting point and that decisions are made by the input provided.

We thank our Governor, state agencies, and our congressional legislation for listening and taking action.

### **Governor's Executive Order - Salmon Emergency**

On April 10, 2008, Governor Ted Kulongoski issued Executive Order No.08-10 declaring a "state of emergency in Tillamook, Lincoln, Coos, Clatsop, and Curry counties and coastal portions of Lane and Douglas counties due to limitations on ocean commercial and sport salmon fishing."

The order directs all state agencies to work together to "mitigate the impacts of this emergency, provide expedited service and resources to persons and businesses adversely affected by the emergency, and focus state efforts in a manner most likely to relieve the unemployment, human suffering, financial loss and other economic impacts of this emergency." The executive order directs resources to those communities to help with job retraining, unemployment benefits, reemployment opportunities and directs the Office of Emergency Management to seek all federal funds that are available to help mitigate effects from the emergency.

The Governor also will be dedicating \$500,000 from his strategic reserve fund to provide immediate assistance until further aid is made available by the federal government. The Oregon Department of Agriculture will be in charge of sending out the funds and is working with the Governor's office to develop how the money will be disbursed.

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### **Congressional Letters - "Fishery Failure"**

Oregon Congressional Legislators have written several letters to the Secretary of Commerce asking for a "Fishery Failure" for the 2008 season of the West Coast salmon fishery.

The first letter dated March 5, 2008 and signed by legislators from all three states, asked for a quick declaration of a commercial Fishery Failure, which "will give Congress the authority to seek emergency disaster funds for the affected communities that rely on the salmon season."

The second letter, April 11, 2008, signed by Senators Smith and Wyden, asked that the Secretary "work quickly with the governors from the affected states to assess the impacts and declare a Fishery Failure pursuant to your authority under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This declaration will provide the authorization needed for Congress to provide disaster assistance for affected communities."

We thank all of our Congressional Legislators for their support of our fishing communities.

## 2008 Commercial Salmon Season Regulations (Draft)

### North of Cape Falcon - Supplemental Management Information

1. Overall non-Indian TAC: 40,000 Chinook and 25,000 coho marked with a healed adipose fin clip (marked).
2. Trade: none.
3. Non-Indian commercial troll TAC: 20,000 Chinook and 4,000 marked coho.

### U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon

• May 3 through earlier of June 30 or 11,700 Chinook quota. Saturday through Tuesday with a landing and possession limit of 50 Chinook per vessel for each open period north of Leadbetter Point or 50 Chinook south of Leadbetter Point (C.1). All salmon except coho (C.7). Cape Flattery, Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.5). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3). Oregon State regulations require that fishers south of Cape Falcon, OR intending to fish within this area notify Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife before transiting the Cape Falcon, OR line (45°46'00" N. lat.) at the following number: 541-867-0300 Ext. 271. Vessels must land and deliver their fish within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. Under state law, vessels must report their catch on a state fish receiving ticket. Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing north of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver their fish within the area and north of Leadbetter Point. Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing south of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver their fish within the area and south of Leadbetter Point, except that Oregon permitted vessels may also land their fish in Garibaldi, Oregon. Oregon State regulations require all fishers landing salmon into Oregon from any fishery between Leadbetter Point, Washington and Cape Falcon, Oregon must notify ODFW within one hour of delivery or prior to transport away from the port of landing by calling 541-867-0300 Ext. 271. Notification shall include vessel name and number, number of salmon by species, port of landing and location of delivery, and estimated time of delivery. Inseason actions may modify harvest guidelines in later fisheries to achieve or prevent exceeding the overall allowable troll harvest impacts (C.8). Chinook minimum total length is 28"; head-off 21.5"

### U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon

• July 1 through earlier of September 16 or 8,300 preseason Chinook guideline (C.8) or a 4,000 marked coho quota (C.8.d). Open July 1-2, then Saturday through Tuesday thereafter. Landing and possession limit of 35 Chinook and 25 coho per vessel per open period north of Leadbetter Point or 35 Chinook and 25 coho south of Leadbetter Point (C.1). All Salmon except no chum retention north of Cape Alava, Washington in August and September (C.7). All coho must have a healed adipose fin clip (C.8.d). Gear restricted to plugs six inches or longer. See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3). Cape Flattery, Mandatory Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area, and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.5). Oregon State regulations require that fishers south of Cape Falcon, OR intending to fish within this area notify Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife before transiting the Cape Falcon, OR line (45°46'00" N. lat.) at the following number: 541-867-0300 Ext. 271. Vessels must land and deliver their fish within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. Under state law, vessels must report their catch on a state fish receiving ticket. Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing north of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver their fish within the area and north of Leadbetter Point. Vessels fishing or in possession of salmon while fishing south of Leadbetter Point must land and deliver their fish within the area and south of Leadbetter Point, except that Oregon permitted vessels may also land their fish in Garibaldi, Oregon. Oregon State regulations require all fishers landing salmon into Oregon from any fishery between Leadbetter Point, Washington and Cape Falcon, Oregon must notify ODFW within one hour of delivery or prior to transport away from the port of landing by calling 541-867-0300 Ext. 271. Notification shall include vessel name and number, number of salmon by species, port of landing and location of delivery, and estimated time of delivery. Inseason actions may modify harvest guidelines in later fisheries to achieve or prevent exceeding the overall allowable troll harvest impacts (C.8). Chinook minimum total length 28"; head-off 21.5", Coho 16"/12"

### South of Cape Falcon - Supplemental Management Information

1. Sacramento Basin recreational fishery allocation: Closed to retention of adult salmon.
2. Klamath River recreational fishery allocation: 22,500.
3. Klamath tribal allocation: 27,000.

### Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.

- Closed in 2008 (C.9).

In 2009, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2009 meeting.

### Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border (Oregon KMZ)

- Closed in 2008 (C.9).

In 2009, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2009 meeting.

### OR/CA Border to U.S./Mexico Border - Closed

## Incidental Halibut

Since fishermen will not be participating in the Chinook fishery South of Cape Falcon, a question was asked about the incidental halibut fishery. OSC Chair Darus Peake contacted the International Pacific Halibut Commission and received the following answer.

"I am emailing about participating in the directed halibut commercial fishery as opposed to halibut bycatch in the salmon troll fishery. You may use your troll gear in the directed fishery but you must change your licenses from incidental troll salmon to directed commercial. In order to do this, any salmon troll license holders must send back their licenses to the IPHC office by the directed commercial license application deadline of April 30, 2008, noting the intent to change their original license to a directed commercial one. IPHC will then issue a new license and send it back to the license holder." If you need further information, contact Kirsten Gravel, 206.634.1838 ext. 223, [Kirsten@iphc.washington.edu](mailto:Kirsten@iphc.washington.edu)

## Vessel Discharge Permits

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is requiring vessel owners - commercial, sport, charter fishing, even whale-watching - to obtain pollution discharge permits as a result of a District Court ruling in 2006. "Discharges" covers nearly everything, including wash water coming off the deck of a vessel, fish waste from cleaning fish on board, etc. Although the case is under appeal in the 9th Circuit, there is a deadline of September 30, 2008 to have the permits in place. EPA estimates that there are 13 million recreational vessels and 81,000 commercial fishing vessels nationwide that will be affected. Rod Moore, West Coast Seafood Processors Association, reported that Alaska Senator Stevens has introduced S 2645 which will put a moratorium on requiring permits for 2 years while the Coast Guard has an opportunity to study the issue and come up with a more workable system. Rod emailed both Senators Smith and Wyden asking them to join Senator Stevens in this effort, as it would be helpful to Oregon's commercial and recreational fishing communities.

## Health Care for Fishermen

Washington, D.C.---On February 13, 2008 Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry and Representatives Barney Frank, John Tierney, and William Delahunt introduced bipartisan legislation to provide low-cost health coverage to fishermen and their families in Massachusetts and other coastal states.

Senator Kennedy said, "This is a unique opportunity to provide good coverage to the nation's fishermen. The Massachusetts Fishing Partnership Plan is a proven success in covering the state's fishermen, and federal funds have contributed significantly to that success. This bill will enable fishermen in other states to get good coverage as well."

Congressman Frank said, "Finding and keeping affordable health care coverage has often been difficult for fishermen. It is time to take the next step by establishing a national program that can help keep the Massachusetts plan strong and also give other states the chance to adopt their own plans. I had hoped that we would be able to include legislation along these lines in the Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization bill passed by Congress in late 2006. When that didn't happen, this health care proposal became one of the key unfinished items on the fishing agenda."

The bill introduced would authorize funding to replicate the Massachusetts Fishing Partnership Health Plan in other coastal states, while allowing states to tailor their plans to their own circumstances and types of fishing. It authorizes \$50 million over five years for program planning, implementation and continuation grants in states with commercial fishing industries.

Also co-sponsoring the bill are Senators Ted Stevens (R) and Lisa Murkowski (R) of Alaska, and Representatives Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Don Young (R-AK), Tom Allen (D-ME) and Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD).

You may wish to contact Oregon federal legislators about the Commercial Fishing Industry Health Care Coverage Act of 2008, which would, if passed, have the Secretary of Health and Human Services establish a grant program under the Health Resources and Services Administration for establishment of health care coverage programs for the commercial fishing industry.

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## Oregon Statutes for Renewing Your License

**508.801** Vessel permit required to engage in fishery; purchase of fish by dealer from individual without permit prohibited.

**508.808** Special renewal and fee provisions. (1) In order to be able to renew the vessel permit in any subsequent year, **an individual is not required to renew the boat license as provided in ORS 508.807 if:**

(a) In the year prior to renewal there was not an ocean troll salmon season of more than 20 consecutive days between May 1 and July 31 in the Pacific Fisheries Management Council management area adjacent to the port where the vessel lands fish; and

(b) The vessel landed salmon in only one single Oregon port and no other during the preceding three years in which there was a salmon season of more than 20 consecutive days between May 1 and July 31 in the Pacific Fisheries Management Council management area adjacent to the port.

(2) The State Department of Fish and Wildlife may, upon written request by the purchaser, refund any amount paid for a boat license for a boat that qualifies under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section.

According to the above rules, most vessels do not qualify for an exemption and therefore must renew their salmon troll permit.

See [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov) for more complete rules.

## Incidental Groundfish in Troll Fishery - Meetings

PFMC meets June 6-13 in CA to adopt harvest standards for rockfish for the next two years. According to ODFW shorter fishing seasons and smaller bag limits are on the table. Since this includes incidental ling cod retention during salmon troll fisheries, fishermen need to give a clear message to ODFW at their town hall meetings along the coast. If you want traditional access to ling cod you should contact PFMC and ODFW in writing as well as attend a meeting on groundfish issues.

All meetings except Port Orford begin at 7 pm.

Tillamook April 28, OR Dept of Forestry Office, 5005 Third St.

Newport May 2, Embarcadero Resort, 1000 SE Bay Blvd.

Brookings May 5, Chetco Grange Comm. Center, 97895

Shopping Center Ave, Harbor

Port Orford 1 pm May 6, Port Orford City Hall, 555 W 20th St.

North Bend May 6, No Bend Public Library, 1800 Sherman Ave.

## ODFW Inland/Nearshore Waters Fishing - Meetings

ODFW is hosting public meetings to solicit input on possible regulation changes to the 2008 fall chinook fishing season for rivers, bays and estuaries along the Oregon Coast. The possible regulation changes are prompted by recent and anticipated declines in Oregon coast fall chinook returns. Along with the commercial closure, PFMC also sharply curtailed recreational fishing. ODFW is now formulating regulations for commercial and recreational fishing in the inland and nearshore waters under its jurisdiction. ODFW will try to maintain as many traditional fisheries as possible. They will look at each fishery on a case-by-case basis and try to offer as many fishing opportunities as possible within the biological constraints. At the upcoming meetings, ODFW staff will present run forecasts and proposed regulations changes.

**Those commercials who fish in state waters (terminal areas) should attend and provide comments.**

Public comments on the proposed changes will be presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission at its June meeting in Salem.

Gold Beach, April 28, 7-9 pm, Curry Cty Fairgrounds, Showcase Bldg  
Todd Confer (541) 247-7605

North Bend, April 29, 7-9 pm, North Bend Library, large conf. room  
Mike Gray (541) 888-5515

Newport, April 30, 7-9 pm, HMSC, Library Seminar Room  
Bob Buckman (541) 867-0300 ext. 224

Tillamook, May 1, 7-9 pm, Oregon Department of Forestry  
Keith Braun (503) 842-2741 ext. 233



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### Commissioners

Darus Peake • Chairman • Garibaldi (Fisherman)  
Jeff Reeves • Vice Chairman • North Bend (Fisherman)  
Kevin Bastien • Sec/Treas • Newport (Fisherman)  
Dwight Collins • Eugene (Public Member)  
Carl Finley • Corvallis (Fisherman)  
Ray Monroe • Pacific City (Fisherman)  
Barry Nelson • Winchester Bay (Fisherman)  
Mark Newell • Newport (Processor)  
Jeff Werner • Gold Beach (Processor)

### SalmonAid Outdoor Festival May 31/June 1

SalmonAid is coming soon! This family-friendly outdoor festival will take place at Jack London Square in Oakland, California on May 31 and June 1. It is free and open to the public. It will feature live music, renowned local restaurants preparing and serving wild salmon dishes, a beer and wine garden, a regatta of recreational and commercial fishing boats, inspiring speakers, and educational booths highlighting the importance of salmon recovery and the work of dozens of organizations from California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The two-day event will be hosted by a coastwide coalition of salmon and fishing advocates including commercial and recreational fishermen, tribal communities, conservation organizations, restaurateurs, and corporate sponsors.

SalmonAid aims to celebrate the benefits of wild Pacific salmon as a valuable cultural resource for the communities of the West Coast and people of the United States, a sustainable economic engine for coastal and inland fishing communities, an unparalleled recreational fishing experience, a nutritious food source cherished by consumers, and a vital ecological link between our freshwater and marine ecosystems. In addition, the event will underscore the plight of salmon watersheds up and down the Pacific Coast where salmon and their habitat – from

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the Columbia-Snake River Basin of the Northwest to the Klamath, Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers in Oregon and California – are in decline. By educating and engaging the public, SalmonAid seeks to demonstrate and build widespread support for policies that will protect and restore the West Coast's salmon legacy. This is especially critical in 2008 as salmon-dependent communities face another devastating coastal fishing closure this year.

The event is from noon until 7pm, Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> and Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>. There will also be a pre-concert "Rally for Pacific Salmon Restoration" in Jack London Square on Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 11am.

SalmonAid is presented by Earthjustice, Save Our Wild Salmon, California Salmon Council, Sierra Nevada Brewing, EcoTeas, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermens Associations, Port Orford Ocean Resource Team, Oregon Wild, Trout Unlimited, Klamath Riverkeeper, Coastside Fishing Club, Institute for Fisheries Resources, Karuk Tribe of California, and the Small Boat Commercial Salmon Fishermens' Association, with more organizations joining daily.

To learn more, or to become a part of SalmonAid, visit [www.salmonaid.org](http://www.salmonaid.org) or contact Jim McCarthy at [jmccarthy@opendoor.com](mailto:jmccarthy@opendoor.com) or 503-239-8819.