



2010 Season - Looking Forward

Eric Schindler, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon needs Sacramento River fall Chinook. For some folks, that statement may elicit a raised eyebrow, but Sacramento fall Chinook are the primary stock caught in Oregon's ocean Chinook seasons year in and year out. Sacramento Chinook have typically made up 60-70% of all of the Chinook landed between Cape Falcon and the Oregon/California border. Without Sacramento fall Chinook in the ocean, the reality is there are very few Chinook left to catch off Oregon.

In the fast paced information age we live in, it is a great frustration to not be able to get an answer "today." But in the world of salmon management, we also have to operate on the timetable that the salmon provide to us. We have to be patient and wait for the answers to come. We wait for hatchery returns to be finalized, spawning surveys to wrap up in late January, and for each of the many steps that must be taken before we start the 2010 ocean salmon season setting process in late February.

At this point in time, the information available about what the 2010 season will bring is still sketchy. Partial hatchery counts and tidbits of anecdotal information only serve to fuel rumors and confusion.

There are a lot of questions and concerns about the Sacramento fall Chinook, and what happens if the spawning escapement floor (122,000) isn't met for the third year in a row. If that happens, actions are expected to be taken by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) to begin a rebuilding process. It does not necessarily mean that there wouldn't be ocean salmon seasons, but it would likely mean that there would be additional actions taken to ensure that more fish make it back to the river. Whatever we might have for seasons will be determined based on the abundance forecast for the coming season, and getting enough fish back to the river.

If we have enough Sacramento fish, there will still be limitations from another Chinook stock such as the Klamath or Snake River fall Chinook. The National Marine Fisheries Service will provide guidance to the PFMC in late February or early March as to what allowable fishery impacts to various critical salmon populations can occur. Then fishery options can begin to take shape. We remain hopeful that we will have enough flexibility in 2010 to develop meaningful sport and commercial troll salmon seasons, but for now... we wait.

Important triggers:

-Sacramento fall Chinook spawning escapement - Is it above the established floor of 122,400? Above the floor, then there will not be an overfished status review and mandated rebuilding plan put into place.

-Sacramento fall Chinook abundance forecast for 2010 - Is it above 122,000 (or a revised spawning escapement goal established for rebuilding)? If it is not above the floor spawning escapement goal, then we would be facing severe restrictions again in 2010. Every fish above the floor provides greater flexibility for seasons. As the Sacramento fall Chinook are primarily three-year old fish, this run has the ability to recover quickly.

-Klamath fall Chinook abundance forecast - Does it allow for any ocean harvest? Although the Sacramento has been the most recent "problem child", our fisheries are managed to allow for ocean escapement to the rivers for other critical stocks as well. The Klamath River fall Chinook (which also acts as a surrogate for California Coastal Chinook) will most likely be the stock that is most likely to further limit our ocean fishery if the Sacramento fall Chinook are in sufficient abundance.

OSC To Participate in Meetings

Since the OSC will be participating in the salmon season setting meetings to represent the troll industry, it is important that you provide your comments at the Industry Group meeting (see *PFMC Calendar article*), to your OSC representative, or the office. Stay involved.

Project CROOS Sign-Up

During these next few months we will learn what our 2010 salmon season holds for us. When the final decision is made and if we get some kind of season, Project CROOS (Collaborative Reserach on Oregon Ocean Salmon) is funded and ready to move forward putting fishermen to work collecting samples at-sea. There have been new developments in electronic data entry systems, and a streamlining of some of the procedures for fishermen and liaisons.

In preparation for a season and for Project CROOS, we are looking for fishermen who are interested in participating. We would like to have the list of those interested, contracts signed, and training completed by the time we have an open opportunity to fish.

Please contact the office with your name, boat name, phone number and address. I will send you a form to fill out. Upon receipt of this form, a contract will be created. This does not guarantee a job collecting samples, nor does it bind you if you do not wish to participate. It just allows us to have all of our paperwork completed so that when/if we can fish, Project CROOS can send fishermen to sea. Thank you for your continued interest in this project.

NOAA Catch Share Draft Policy Comments

NOAA has released a draft policy encouraging the use of catch shares. The draft policy is available for public comment until April 10, 2010.

Catch shares have met with controversy saying that they pose problems for commercial fishers, including the possibility of shutting out small fishing operations or consolidating the industry. Another concern is that the ability to buy and sell shares of fish has the potential to create a system that favors large corporations or cedes parts of the catch to outside interests. **Learn what catch shares mean for your fishery and provide your comments.** It is important that NOAA hears from you.

Below are press release comments from Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator. "I'm pleased to announce that NOAA has released a draft national policy today that encourages the use of catch shares as a scientifically proven method to help ensure the sustainability of our oceans and put struggling fisheries on the path to profitability. Rebuilding our fisheries and restoring ocean health to help keep our coastal communities vibrant are top priorities for NOAA. Although we have made solid progress in rebuilding many fisheries, as mandated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, more than 20 percent of our fish stocks remain depleted. Fishermen are working harder to bring back fewer fish.

Under a catch share system, fishermen and other fishing entities are allocated individual shares of the fishery's scientifically determined total catch, which can be fished, leased or sold.

Catch share programs are already in place in 13 of the nation's commercial fisheries. Historically, catch shares have only been applied to the commercial fishing sector. Regional fishery management councils have the authority to consider the appropriateness of catch share programs and decide which sectors, if any, may benefit from their use. NOAA is committed to working with the councils and recreational, commercial and other stakeholder groups to help assess whether a catch share program is right for them.

With a greater stake in the fishery, fishermen receiving catch shares are more invested in its health and sustainability. As the fishery recovers and becomes more profitable, catch shares increase in value. Fishermen are free to manage their shares as they wish, which could mean choosing to fish when the weather is good and the market price is optimal. Catch shares helped eliminate the "race to fish" in a number of fisheries, reducing not only overfishing, but also bycatch of undersized fish and other species caught accidentally.

When properly tailored to the needs of individual fisheries, catch shares can help sustain the livelihoods of fishermen and the vibrancy of fishing communities, including the preservation of wharfs and diverse fishing fleets.

It's important to note that the draft policy NOAA is issuing today is not a mandate, nor does it set numerical targets. The development of catch share programs is voluntary and, to be successful, should be designed with extensive stakeholder participation to meet the local goals specific to each fishery and sector.

The draft policy is now available for public comment. Before issuing a final version, NOAA will review and consider all input, which can be submitted until April 10, 2010.

The proposed policy is the result of months of careful consideration and input from a task force of NOAA experts and members from the eight regional fishery management councils. NOAA also held listening sessions with commercial and recreational fishing communities, and environmental nongovernmental organizations.

You can read and comment on NOAA's proposed catch share policy by visiting www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchshares."

PFMC Season Setting Calendar

Jan. 19-22, The Salmon Technical Team (STT) and a NMFS economist met in Portland to draft the Review of 2009 Ocean Salmon Fisheries report which summarizes seasons, quotas, harvest, escapement, socioeconomic statistics, achievement of management goals, and impacts on species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Feb. 16-19, STT meets in Portland to complete Preseason Report I Stock Abundance Analysis for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries which provides key salmon stock abundance estimates and level of precision, harvest and escapement estimates when recent regulatory regimes are projected on 2010 abundance, and other pertinent information to aid development of management options.

Feb. 25, 9:30-3:30 - **Ocean Salmon Industry Group (OSIG)** meeting in Newport at the Hallmark Resort Hotel, 744 SW Elizabeth St. to look at the 2010 salmon forecasts and develop recreational and commercial ocean salmon fishing concepts to take forward through the PFMC regulatory process.

Feb. 25, **Oregon Salmon Commission** meeting 3:30-5:30 following the OSIG meeting at the same location to discuss trollers' ideas to take to the PFMC meetings.

Mar. 6-11, **PFMC meeting** at the DoubleTree Hotel in Sacramento to adopt 2010 regulatory options for public review.

Mar. 15-19, The STT completes Preseason Report II: Analysis of Proposed Regulatory Options for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries.

Mar. 17-18 in Lacey, WA, and April 6-8 in Lynwood, WA – North of Cape Falcon Forum meetings.

Mar. 23, PFMC distributes Preseason Report II to the public.

Mar. 29, Public Hearing in Westport, WA

Mar. 29, Public Hearing in Coos Bay, OR

Mar. 30, Public Hearing in Eureka, CA

Apr. 10-15, **PFMC meeting** at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel to adopt final regulatory measures.

Apr. 15-21, The STT and council staff will complete Preseason Report III: Analysis of Council Adopted Regulatory Measures for 2010 Ocean Salmon Fisheries.

Apr. 23, Preseason Report III available to the public

May 1, NMFS implements Federal ocean salmon fishing regulations

Marine Reserves Meetings

The first marine reserves community team meetings will be held in January. All meetings are open to the public and the agenda will be posted on the Oregon Marine Reserve website (www.oregonmarinereserves.net).

If you fish in these areas, it is important that you attend or at least communicate with your commercial representatives (see article on next page) and know what is going on. These groups will be meeting at least monthly in order to prepare a report to the Governor by fall 2010.

Cape Perpetua: Tuesday, January 26 from 6-8:30pm at the Yachats Commons, 441 Hwy 101, Yachats.

Cape Falcon: Wednesday, January 27 from 6-8:30pm at the Oregon Department of Forestry Conference Room, 5005 Third Street, Tillamook.

Cascade Head: Thursday, January 28 from 6-8:30pm at the Kiwanda Community Center, 34600 Cape Kiwanda Drive, Pacific City.

OSC Salmon Industry Recovery Business Plan

The following press release was sent out on November 5, 2009 by the Oregon Salmon Commission.

The Oregon Salmon Commission voted unanimously at its October 28, 2009 meeting to produce a Business Plan called "The Oregon Salmon Industry Recovery Business Plan".

The document will outline the Industry's priorities and specific needs for the year ahead and will reflect the continuing goals and challenges facing the Oregon Salmon Troller into the future.

The Oregon Salmon Industry is facing unprecedented challenges, which will continue beyond 2009. The Oregon Salmon Commission has a central part to play in addressing these challenges and providing leadership on the shape of the industry and regulation. We will be focused on the survival of the fleet and expectations of continued opportunity to provide high quality product to the fish eating public.

The Business Plan will include a vision and mission statement that will describe where we would like to be in the near future and a description of who we are. The plan's specific goals and objectives will be formulated through industry participation. Some of those goals and objectives could be but are not limited to:

- Disaster Relief
- Fleet Restructuring (Salmon permit reduction exploration)
- Fleet Structure (Demographics - vessel size, economic needs)
- Escapement Goals
- Hatchery Production
- Wild Fish Policy
- Weak Stock Management
- Project CROOS (Collaborative Research on Oregon Ocean Salmon)
- Marketing/Promotion

The completed document should be considered a working document that will set out a strategic plan for the Oregon Salmon Industry. It will review obstacles, opportunities and present a series of statements relating to the Oregon Salmon Industry's vision, mission, values and objectives; and will set out its proposed strategies and goals.

Marine Reserves Community Teams

The marine reserves community teams for Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, and Cape Perpetua have been selected by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). Each team consists of four members (two representatives and two alternates) for each of the eight stakeholder groups (commercial fishing, conservation, local government, non-fishing industry, recreational fishing, recreationalist, scientist, watershed council). Only 16 members will be allowed to vote at any meeting (two representatives from each of the stakeholder groups).

Commercial fishing representatives and alternates are:

Cape Falcon: Bernie Bjork, Astoria, rep. A; Doug Brown, Garibaldi, rep. B; Kelly Barnett, Bay City, alt. A; Tim Thomas, Garibaldi, alt. B.

Cascade Head: Craig Wenrick, Pacific City, rep. A; Bob Eder, Newport, rep. B; Mark Roberts, Pacific City, alt. A; Bob Spelbrink, Siletz, alt. B.

Cape Perpetua: Mike Pettis, Newport, rep. A; Al Pazar, Florence, rep. B; Gary Ripka, Newport, alt. A; Bob Kemp, Newport, alt. B.

Complete lists of all team members are available through the Oregon Marine Reserve website: (www.oregonmarinereserves.net). See the bottom of the page "Latest Additions." If you do not have internet access and want the lists, please let me know and I will mail you a copy.

OSC Letter to the Coastal Caucus to Eliminate the Salmon Permit Lottery System

At its October 28, 2009 meeting, the Oregon Salmon Commission approved two important motions.

The Commission voted unanimously to produce a Business Plan called "The Oregon Salmon Industry Recovery Business Plan". The document will outline the Industry's priorities and specific needs for the year ahead and will reflect the continuing goals and challenges facing the Oregon Salmon Troller into the future. (See the attached press release.)

One of the items to be discussed under this business plan is the possible restructuring of the salmon fleet which could include fleet reduction. In order for any type of reduction, the present lottery system for permit issuance through the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife would need to be eliminated.

This is the current language of ORS 508.819: "ORS 508.819 Lottery system for permit issuance. (1)(a) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, if the number of permits renewed under ORS 508.807 falls below 1,000, the State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall issue permits by a lottery system for vessels that do not meet the requirements of ORS 508.807. However, the number of permits issued pursuant to any such lottery system may not increase the number of permits issued to a total number greater than 1,000."

The second vote approved by the Commission was to write this letter to you, the Coastal Caucus, asking for an elimination of the salmon permit lottery system. Please consider this request and let us know what we can do to assist you or if you need more information.

FoodHub: Where Food People Connect

Somewhere in the Pacific NW right now there is a food buyer trying to find the perfect salmon and a fisher looking for a home for today's catch. This new website makes it possible for food buyers and sellers to find each other

FoodHub (<http://food-hub.org>), a new social venture from the nonprofit Ecotrust, is a recently launched online directory and marketplace designed specifically to connect wholesale food buyers and sellers. With FoodHub, food buyers can go online and type in peaches, potatoes, lamb or wild salmon and get a list of farmers, ranchers or fishermen who sell those products.

Food sellers can go online to find those who might be interested in buying their products. With a few clicks of the computer keyboard, food sellers can both research market opportunities and promote themselves and their products to diverse food buyers.

Maintaining an active profile within FoodHub costs \$100 per year and is being offered initially in the Pacific NW. Food service operators in the Portland metropolitan area declare themselves to be "addicted" to FoodHub's search and browse features. (From FoodHub press release)

If you received this newsletter in the mail, we are happy to continue sending it to you this way, but if you have an email address and would like to receive it electronically, please let me know. This email list will not only receive the Tagline, but other industry updates that come out between publication of the newsletter.



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