

The Newsletter of the Oregon Salmon Commission

March 2003

Earliest Troll Season Opener Since 1955

Most of the 467 trollers who participated in 2002 are aware of the rationale behind opening earlier. Number one is the higher price per pound, and secondly the avoidance of Klamath, Snake River and other listed and Chinook stocks of concern.

2002 provided Oregon trollers \$5.2 million ex-vessel to share up and down the coast. 2002 also acquired quite a CREDIT CARD DEBT from the September and October fishery on Klamath Fall Chinook impacts that have to be paid for in 2003.

Coastwide, Oregon accrued 5,073 Klamath Fall impacts in September and October of 2002. With a maximum of 13,603 Klamath Fall Chinook impacts for Oregon, it was difficult to shape a season that would provide maximum opportunity, while meeting PFMC intent of 50/50 sharing with California troll, 35,000 escapement (floor) to natural areas in the Klamath system as well as meeting Tribal obligations. Oregon Coast Coho (OCN) were not the driving stock for the first time in many years. So California troll could add some time in Ft. Bragg, where they have not fished in 10 years.

The three directions given by the Oregon Salmon Commission are incorporated in the options. One was a second option (1b) on Halibut retention through incidental catch in the Salmon troll fishery. Two was the modeling of a 27" size limit for the period may through August. Three was a proposed March 1, 2004 opening date.

The rationale and request to lower the Halibut trip limit was based on the lack of date coming from WDFW. ODFW provided satisfactory data for the Oregon portion of the Incidental Troll halibut catch.

A 27" size limit was modeled by the Klamath Ocean Harvest team and resulted in only a 2 and 1/2 day extension of the August fishery. 28" was

requested by a troller from Newport but was not forwarded by the Commission. Concern was for all the smalls being landed throughout the 2002 season, thus a lower price. Approximately 182,000 of the 3.4 million pounds landed or about .05% equate to a round number of 30,000 small salmon. It appears not to be a good trade off to adopt the 27" size limit at this time.

The other request forwarded by the Commission was a March 1, 2004 start date. This was discussed on the docks last winter and came forward to PFMC through a letter from a troller. ODFW was not excited about opening March 1. Little rationale was provided, except that opening before the March PFMC meeting was something they did not want to do. This issue can be brought up again in November.

In an attempt to address some of the Credit Card Debt, the trollers fishing the Klamath Fishery Management Zone from Oregon have approved a 30" size limit in September, the month they encounter most of their Klamath Credit Card impacts. It is advised for Northern Oregon and Central Oregon (Newport North and Coos Bay to Florence) to adopt, at a minimum, a 28" size limit in October.

Option 1 provides the most opportunity for the entire coast from Falcon to the Oregon/California border.

North of Falcon

North of Falcon is modeling a more restrictive Chinook opportunity than in 2002 due to lower abundance of Lower River Hatchery Chinook in the Columbia River. There is one option providing some specific Coho opportunity North of Falcon, off the Columbia in Area 1, while other options share the Coho with the Washington Coast to the North. Those wishing to participate in the North of Falcon process should contract ODFW for times and dates.

Season Option Descriptions

Option I

North of Falcon

Supplemental Management Info:

1. Overall non-Indian TAC: 124,000 chinook and 300,000 coho.
Trade: May be considered at the April Council meeting.
2. Non-Indian troll TAC: 64,400 chinook and 75,000 coho.
3. Treaty Indian commercial ocean troll quotas of: 60,000 chinook (30,000 in May and June; 30,000 for all-salmon season July through Sept. 15 with no rollover allowed from chinook season); and 90,000 coho.

U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon

C May 1 through earlier of June 30 or 50,000 chinook quota. All salmon except coho (C.6). Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.4). Vessels must land and deliver their fish within the area or in adjacent areas and within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. State regulations require that fishers south of Cape Falcon intending to fish within this area, and/or fishers fishing within this area intending to land salmon south of Cape Falcon, notify Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) before transiting the Cape Falcon line (45E46'00"= N. lat). Inseason actions may modify harvest guidelines in later fisheries to achieve or prevent exceeding the overall allowable troll harvest impacts (C.7.a).

July 1 through earlier of Sept. 30 or 14,400 preseason chinook guideline (C.7.a) or a 75,000 coho quota. All salmon. All retained coho must have a healed adipose fin clip (C.6). Vessels must land and deliver their fish within the area or in adjacent areas and within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. State regulations require that fishers south of Cape Falcon intending to fish within this area, and/or fishers fishing within this area intending to land salmon south of Cape Falcon, notify Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) before transiting the Cape Falcon line (45E46'00"= N. lat). No special gear restrictions (C.2). Trip limits, gear restrictions, and guidelines may be implemented or adjusted inseason. Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.4).

Option II

North of Falcon

Supplemental Management Info:

1. Overall non-Indian TAC: 115,000 chinook and 250,000 coho.
Trade: May be considered at the April Council meeting.
2. Non-Indian Troll TAC: 59,000 chinook and 62,500 coho.
3. Treaty Indian commercial ocean troll quotas of: 40,000 chinook (20,000 in May and June; 20,000 for all-salmon season July through Sept. 15 with no rollover allowed from chinook season); and 75,000 coho.

U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon

C May 1 through earlier of June 24 or 35,000 chinook quota. All salmon except coho (C.6). Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.4). See gear restrictions in C.2. Vessels must land and deliver their fish within the area or in adjacent areas that are closed to all commercial non-Indian salmon fishing, and within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. Inseason actions may modify quotas or harvest guidelines in later fisheries to achieve or prevent exceeding the overall allowable troll harvest impacts (C.7.a).

June 26 through earlier of Sept. 30 or 16,500 preseason chinook guideline, or a 42,500 coho quota (C.7.a). All salmon. All retained coho must have a healed adipose fin clip (C.6). North of Queets River gear restricted to plugs 6 inches or longer; south of Queets River gear restricted to plugs 6 inches or longer prior to July 27 (C.2). Cape Flattery Control Zone closed (C.4). Trip limits, gear restrictions, and quotas or guidelines may be implemented or adjusted inseason. Vessels must land and deliver their fish within the area or in adjacent areas that are closed to all commercial non-Indian salmon fishing, and within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery.

Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon

June 26 through earlier of Sept. 30 or 7,500 preseason chinook guideline or a 20,000 coho quota (C.7.a). All salmon. All retained coho must have a healed adipose fin clip. Gear (continued bottom of next column)

Option III

North of Falcon

Supplemental Management Info:

1. Overall non-Indian TAC: 95,000 chinook and 200,000 coho
Trade: May be considered at the April Council meeting.
2. Non-Indian Troll TAC: 47,500 chinook and 50,000 coho.
3. Treaty Indian commercial ocean troll quotas of: 30,000 chinook (15,000 in May and June; 15,000 for all-salmon season July through Sept. 15 with no rollover allowed from chinook season); and 60,000 coho.
4. Overall Chinook TACs may need to be reduced or fisheries adjusted upon conclusion of NMFS ESA consultation for the Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Resource Management Plan

U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon

C May 1 through earlier of June 30 or 25,000 chinook quota. All salmon except coho (C.6). Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.4). Vessels must land and deliver their fish within the area and within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. Inseason actions may modify quotas or harvest guidelines in later fisheries to achieve or prevent exceeding the overall allowable troll harvest impacts (C.7.a).

July 2 through earlier of Sept. 14 or 22,500 preseason chinook guideline or 50,000 coho quota (C.7.a). All salmon. All retained coho must have a healed adipose fin clip (C.6). Columbia and Cape Flattery Control Zones closed (C.4). Fishery is 5 days open/2 days closed. Gear restrictions (C.2). Trip limits, gear restrictions, and guidelines may be implemented or adjusted inseason. Vessels must land and deliver their fish within the area and within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery.

restrictions (C.2). Columbia Control Zone closed (C.4). Trip limits, gear restrictions, and quotas or guidelines may be implemented or adjusted inseason. Vessels must land and deliver their fish within the area or in adjacent areas that are closed to all commercial non-Indian salmon fishing, and within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery.

Option I

South of Cape Falcon

Cape Falcon to Florence South Jetty

March 15 through July 16; Aug. 1 through Aug. 19 and Sept. 1 through Oct. 31. All salmon except coho. See gear restrictions (C.2) and Oregon State regulations for a description of the closed area at the mouth of Tillamook Bay.

In 2004, the season will open March 1 for all salmon except coho. This opening could be modified following Council review at its November 2003 meeting.

Florence South Jetty to Humbug Mt.

March 15 through June 30; July 17 through July 31; August 11 through Aug. 29; and Sept. 1 through Oct. 31. All salmon except coho. See gear restrictions (C.2).

In 2004, the season will open March 1 for all salmon except coho. This opening could be modified following Council review at its November 2003 meeting.

Humbug Mt. to OR-CA Border

March 15 through May 31. All salmon except coho. See gear restrictions (C.2).
June 1 through earlier of June 30 or 3,000 chinook quota;
July 1 through earlier of July 31 or 1,500 chinook quota;
Aug. 1 through earlier of Aug. 29 or 3,000 chinook quota;
Sept. 1 through earlier of Sept. 30 or 4,000 chinook quota with a chinook 30 inch minimum size limit.

No transfer of remaining quota from earlier fisheries allowed. All salmon except coho. Possession and landing limit of 50 fish per day per vessel prior to Sept. 1; 100 fish per day in Sept. See gear restrictions (C.2). All salmon must landed and delivered to Gold Beach, Port Orford, or Brookings, and within 24 hours of closure.

In 2004 the season will open March 1 for all salmon except coho. This opening could be modified following Council review at its November 2003 meeting.

Option II

South of Cape Falcon

Cape Falcon to Florence South Jetty

March 15 through July 16; Aug. 1 through Aug. 19 and Sept. 1 through Oct. 31. All salmon except coho. When open during the period from May 1 through August 31, the minimum size limit for chinook is 27 inches. See gear restrictions (C.2) and Oregon State regulations for a description of the closed area at the mouth of Tillamook Bay.

In 2004, same as Option I.

Florence South Jetty to Humbug Mt.

March 15 through June 30; July 17 through July 31; August 11 through Aug. 29; and Sept. 1 through Oct. 31. All salmon except coho. When open during the period from May 1 through August 31 the minimum size limit for chinook is 27 inches. See gear restrictions (C.2).

In 2004, same as Option I.

Humbug Mt. to OR-CA Border

March 15 through May 31. All salmon except coho. See
June 1 through earlier of June 30 or 3,000 chinook quota;
July 1 through earlier of July 31 or 1,100 chinook quota;
Aug. 1 through earlier of Aug. 29 or 3,000 chinook quota;
Sept. 1 through earlier of Sept. 30 or 4,000 chinook quota with a chinook 30 inch minimum size limit.

No transfer of remaining quota from earlier fisheries allowed. All salmon except coho. Possession and landing limit of 50 fish per day per vessel prior to Sept. 1; 100 fish per day per vessel in Sept. See gear restrictions (C.2). All salmon must landed and delivered to Gold Beach, Port Orford, or Brookings, and within 24 hours of closure.

In 2004, same as Option I.

Option III

Cape Falcon to Florence South Jetty

March 15 through July 16; Aug. 1 through Aug. 19 and Sept. 1 through Oct. 31. All salmon except coho. When open during the period from May 1 through August 31, the minimum size limit for chinook is 27 inches. Chinook minimum size limit is 28 inches October 1-31. See gear restrictions (C.2) and Oregon State regulations for a description of the closed area at the mouth of Tillamook Bay.

In 2004, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. This opening could be modified following Council review at its November 2003 meeting.

Florence South Jetty to Humbug Mt.

X March 15 through June 30; July 17 through July 31; August 11 through Aug. 29; and Sept. 1 through Oct. 31. All salmon except coho. When open during the period from May 1 through August 31 the minimum size limit for chinook is 27 inches. Chinook minimum size limit is 28 inches Oct. 1-31. See gear restrictions (C.2).
gear restrictions (C.2).

In 2004, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. This opening could be modified following Council review at its November 2003 meeting.

Humbug Mt. to OR-CA Border

Same as Option I.

In 2004, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. This opening could be modified following Council review at its November 2003 meeting.



Option I

OR-CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty

Sept. 1 through earlier of Sept. 30 or 10,000 chinook quota.

All salmon except coho. Possession and landing limit of 40 fish per day. All fish caught in this area must be landed within the area. See gear restrictions (C.2). Klamath Control Zone closed (C.4).

Horse Mt. to Pt. Arena (Fort Bragg)

May 1 - 31 and July 17 through Sept. 30. All salmon except coho. See gear restrictions (C.2).

Pt. Arena to U.S./Mexico Border

May 1 through Sept. 30. All salmon except coho. Chinook minimum size limit 26 inches. See gear restrictions (C.2).

Pt. Reyes to Pigeon Pt. (Fall Area Target Zone)

Oct. 1 through Oct. 17, Monday through Friday. Inside 3 nautical miles. All salmon except coho. Chinook minimum size limit 26 inches. See gear restrictions (C.2).

Option II

OR-CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty

Same as Option I.

Horse Mt. to Pt. Arena (Fort Bragg)

May 1 - 31, July 1 - Aug. 30, and Sept. 1 - 30. All salmon except coho. July 1 - 31, possession and landing limit of 150 fish per day per vessel and all fish caught in this area must be landed within the area. See gear restrictions (C.2).

Pt. Arena to U.S./Mexico Border

Same as Option I.

Pt. Reyes to Pigeon Pt. (Fall Area Target Zone)

Same as Option I

Option III

OR-CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty

Same as Option I.

Horse Mt. to Pt. Arena (Fort Bragg)

May 1 - 31 and July 1 through Sept. 30. All salmon except coho. July 1 - 31, possession and landing limit of 100 fish per day per vessel and all fish caught in this area must be landed within the area. See gear restrictions (C.2).

Pt. Arena to U.S./Mexico Border

Same as Option I.

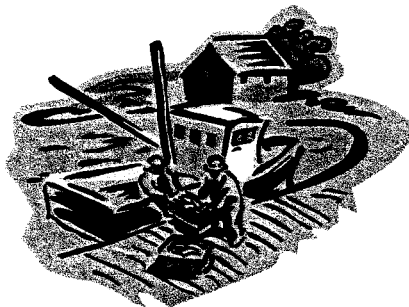
Pt. Reyes to Pigeon Pt. (Fall Area Target Zone)

Same as Option I

Comments can be provided to the Pacific Fishery Management Council at their email address:

PFMC.Comments@noaa.gov

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place,
Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384



The Pacific Fishery Management Council will meet **April 6-11, 2003** in Vancouver, Washington to address management of fisheries for salmon, groundfish, Pacific halibut, coastal pelagic species, and habitat management issues.

Meetings will be held at the Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay, 100 Columbia Street, Vancouver, WA

An agenda is posted at the following web address:

pcouncil.org/events/2003/pfmc0403

Key action items will include:

- Adoption of final management measures for the 2003 ocean salmon fisheries.

- consideration of preliminary draft rebuilding plans for darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, lingcod, and canary rockfish.

- Establishing the process and schedule for setting 2004 management measures for the groundfish fishery.

- Consideration of inseason adjustments to some groundfish fisheries.

- Updates on development of the groundfish essential fish habitat environmental impact statement.

- Adoption of proposed 2003 incidental catch regulations for Pacific Halibut.

- Approval of a regulatory amendment for changes to the sardine allocation.

B. MINIMUM SIZE (Inches)

Area (when open)	Chinook		Coho		Pink
	Total Length	Head-off	Total Length	Head-off	
North of Cape Falcon	28.0	21.5	16.0	12.0	None
South of Cape Falcon	26.0 ^{a/}	19.5 ^{a/}	-	-	None
Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.					
Option II and III - May 1 - Aug. 31	27.0 ^{a/}	20.5 ^{a/}	-	-	None
Option III Oct. 1 -31.	28.0 ^{a/}	21.5 ^{a/}	-	-	None
Humbug Mt. to OR/CA Border Sept. 1-30	30.0		-	-	None

a/ Chinook not less than the minimum size limit in place for fish taken in open seasons south of Cape Falcon may be landed north of Cape Falcon only when the season is closed north of Cape Falcon.

C. REQUIREMENTS, DEFINITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, OR EXCEPTIONS

- C.1. Compliance with Minimum Size or Other Special Restrictions: All salmon on board a vessel must meet the minimum size or other special requirements for the area being fished and the area in which they are landed if that area is open. Salmon may be landed in an area that is closed only if they meet the minimum size or other special requirements for the area in which they were caught.
- C.2. Gear Restrictions:
- Single point, single shank barbless hooks are required in all fisheries.
 - Off Oregon South of Cape Falcon:* No more than 4 spreads are allowed per line.
Spread defined: A single leader connected to an individual lure or bait.
 - Off California:* No more than 6 lines are allowed per vessel and barbless circle hooks are required when fishing with bait by any means other than trolling.
Circle hook defined: A hook with a generally circular shape and a point which turns inward, pointing directly to the shank at a 90E angle.
Trolling defined: Fishing from a boat or floating device that is making way by means of a source of power, other than drifting by means of the prevailing water current or weather conditions.
- C.3. Transit Through Closed Areas with Salmon on Board: It is unlawful for a vessel to have troll gear in the water while transiting any area closed to salmon fishing while possessing salmon; however, fishing for species other than salmon is not prohibited if the area is open for such species and no salmon are in possession.
- C.4. Control Zone Definitions:
- Cape Flattery Control Zone (Figure 1):* The area from Cape Flattery (48° 23'00" N lat.) to the northern boundary of the U.S. EEZ; and the area from Cape Flattery south to 48° 15'00" N lat. and west of 125° 05'00" W long.
 - Columbia Control Zone* - An area at the Columbia River mouth, bounded on the west by a line running northeast/southwest between the red lighted Buoy #4 (46E13'35" N lat., 124E06'50" W long.) and the green lighted Buoy #7 (46E15'09' N lat., 124E06'16" W long.); on the east, by the Buoy #10 line which bears north/south at 357E true from the south jetty at 46E14'00" N lat., 124E03'07" W long. to its intersection with the north jetty; on the north, by a line running northeast/southwest between the green lighted Buoy #7 to the tip of the north jetty (46E14'48" N lat., 124E05'20" W long.) and then along the north jetty to the point of intersection with the Buoy #10 line; and, on the south, by a line running northeast/southwest between the red lighted Buoy #4 and tip of the south jetty (46E14'03" N lat., 124E04'05" W long.), and then along the south jetty to the point of intersection with the Buoy #10 line.
 - Klamath Control Zone* - The ocean area at the Klamath River mouth bounded on the north by 41E38'48" N lat. (approximately 6 nautical miles north of the Klamath River mouth); on the west, by 124E23'00" W long. (approximately 12 nautical miles off shore); and, on the south, by 41E26'48" N lat. (approximately 6 nautical miles south of the Klamath River mouth).
- C.5. Notification When Unsafe Conditions Prevent Compliance with Regulations: If prevented by unsafe weather conditions or mechanical problems from meeting special management area landing restrictions, vessels must notify the U.S. Coast Guard and receive acknowledgment of such notification prior to leaving the area. This notification shall include the name of the vessel, port where delivery will be made, approximate amount of salmon (by species) on board and the estimated time of arrival.

- C.6. **Incidental Halibut Harvest:** During authorized periods, the operator of a vessel that has been issued an incidental halibut harvest license may retain Pacific halibut caught incidentally in Area 2A while trolling for salmon. License applications for incidental harvest must be obtained from the International Pacific Halibut Commission (phone 206/634-1838). Applicants must apply prior to April 1 of each year. Incidental harvest is authorized only during **May and June** troll seasons and after June 30 if quota remains and if announced on the NMFS hotline (phone 800/662-9825). ODFW and WDFW will monitor landings. If the landings are projected to exceed the 39,300 pound preseason allocation or the total Area 2A non-Indian commercial halibut allocation, NMFS will take inseason action to close the incidental halibut fishery.
- Option 1a:** License holders may land no more than 1 halibut per each 3 chinook, except 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut may be landed per trip. Halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).
- Option 1b:** License holders may land no more than 1 halibut per each 3 chinook, except 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 25 halibut may be landed per trip. Halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).
- Option 2:** Designate the AC-shaped@ yelloweye rockfish conservation area, as defined in the Pacific Council Halibut Catch Sharing Plan in the North Coast subarea (WA marine area 3), as an area to be avoided for salmon troll fishing to provide protection of yelloweye rockfish.
- NOTE: Option 2 may be combined with either Option 1a or 1b.
- C.7. **Inseason Management:** In addition to standard inseason actions or modifications already noted under the season description, the following inseason guidance is provided to NMFS:
- Chinook remaining from the May/June quota may be transferred to the July-September quota on a fishery impact equivalent basis.
 - At the March 2004 meeting, the Council will consider inseason recommendations for special regulations for any experimental April fisheries (proposals must meet Council protocol and be received in November 2003).
- C.8. Consistent with Council management objectives, the State of Oregon may establish additional late-season, chinook-only fisheries in state waters. Check state regulations for details.
- C.9. For the purposes of CDFG Code, Section 8232.5, the definition of the KMZ for the ocean salmon season shall be that area from Humbug Mt., Oregon to Horse Mt., California.
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Oregon Salmon Commission Meeting

The Oregon Salmon Commission held a meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2003 at the Hatfield Marine Science Center for a business discussion and a Budget Hearing. Over sixteen people attended the meeting including six of the seven Salmon Commissioners.

Since this meeting was after the Oregon Salmon Industry Group meeting and before the Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in March, regulatory issues were foremost on the agenda. Don Stevens, a regulatory member for the Salmon Commission and Chair of the PFMC Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), gave an update of last season and what impacts there are for this year. The article on page 1 is a synopsis of those findings.

The budget for Fiscal Year 2003/2004 was discussed. The Commission decided to allocate \$36,300.00 for Materials & Services which includes supplies, communication, travel, meals & lodging, postage, insurance, professional assistance, contract services, and administrative services. \$79,100 will be allocated for the Special Payments category including grant projects, education/research, promotion, newsletter, and scholarships. For the upcoming fiscal year the commissioners decided to increase the number of scholarships available for graduating high school seniors from two to four \$500 scholarships.

The commissioners approved contracts for Don Stevens and Jerry Reinholdt (OSC regulatory members and representatives on the PFMC), Nancy Fitzpatrick, The Seafood Steward, and OCZMA.

Elections of officers were held with Mark Newell as Chairman, Al Ritter as Vice Chair, and Kevin Bastien as Secretary/Treasurer.

Option I

North of Falcon

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U.S./Canada Border to Cape Falcon

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Season Option Descriptions

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Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon

June 26 through earlier of Sept. 30 or 7,500 preseason chinook guideline or a 20,000 coho quota (C.7.a). All salmon. All retained coho must have a healed adipose fin clip. Gear (continued bottom of next column)

Option III

North of Falcon

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