



## March Opener Yields Positive Results

The 2002 Oregon Salmon Troll season began with a March 20th opening date, good weather, and chinook. These extra two weeks in March yielded 46,721 pounds of chinook with an average price of \$3.25 per pound for all ports combined. The unexpected catch was a surprise to trollers and the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and port samplers were not on hand to do normal Coded Wire Tag recovery (CWT).

The Oregon Salmon Commission has asked the Pacific Fishery Management Council to consider a March 15th opener for 2003. The Commission is aware that budget issues do not allow ODFW to hire samplers for a March opener in 2003, therefore the Commission will provide \$3,000 for ODFW to hire port samplers for this time period.

The Oregon Salmon Commission and Oregon trollers know the value of recovering CWT's and their usefulness in analyzing catch and their ultimate contribution in updating the Chinook FRAM and the KOHM models used by the Salmon Technical Team.

The Oregon Salmon Commission is committed to requesting that the best science available be used and wishes to contribute to that end.

## Oregon to Get Millions

U.S. Senators Gordon Smith, and Ron Wyden announced Monday that Oregon will receive over \$32 million for programs to benefit fishing communities and strengthen salmon restoration efforts. The funds were awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The money will go to a wide range of programs, from continued outreach and training for displaced groundfish fishermen and enhanced groundfish research, to support for the Oregon Salmon Plan via the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

According to Senator Smith, the money will help provide Oregon with the science and data needed to move away from crisis management and toward more sustainable fisheries.

*Newport News Times 10/03/02*

2002 Troll Salmon Landings - March 20 - 29

Port	Pounds Landed	Average Price
Garibaldi	147	\$2.53
Depoe Bay	35	\$2.51
Newport	24,452	\$3.17
Florence	3,463	\$3.14
Winchester Bay	60	\$2.25
Charleston	17,867	\$3.39
Bandon	583	\$3.32
Port Orford	28	\$2.21
Brookings	86	\$3.08

# The Oregon Salmon Commission History

The Oregon Salmon Commission was created with the assistance of State Representative Paul Hanneman in the 1983 Oregon Legislature. This Commission is an official state agency under the Oregon Department of Agriculture and has the rights and duties to represent the fishermen and processors, as to marketing issues, but also to be a strong advocate of concerns regarding rules, legislation, or any governmental action which may affect the troll fishing industry.

The Department of Agriculture initially provided the administration of the Commission. During 1986, the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA) under Jay Rasmussen was contracted to provide interim administrative assistance to the Salmon Commission. In early 1987, Tom Robinson was hired to manage the Commission with OCZMA providing secretarial services. As the Commission's activities expanded, it became apparent that the Commission needed its own full time secretary. When Nancy Fitzpatrick was hired in 1989, the Commission had a complete and separate office. Fortunately, the office was able to be located next door to the OCZMA and benefit from its varied activities and knowledge.

As early as the fall of 1990, the Commission saw problems arising and began to develop contingency plans to deal with dwindling finances. Several grants were obtained, a small conservation hatchery project through the R&E Board, and an Agricultural Opportunities Fund grant for the Quality Tagged Salmon Project. Since most of the daily operating capital of the Commission comes from troller assessments, the level of Commission activity decreased as assessments decreased. By November 1991, drastic changes were made. Both Tom and Nancy were terminated from employee status and rehired on personal contracts at reduced schedules and salaries. The Newport office was discontinued, but Commission activities continued from the home offices of Tom in Newport and Nancy in Lincoln City.

With the poor assessment income from the 1994 season, the Commission again cut its budget and activities. The staff was reduced to just the secretary's position on a contract basis for about 42 hours a month (1/4 time). This allowed continued phone and mail service and other essential Commission business with some ongoing formal presence in the industry. With improved assessments for 1995 and 1996, the Commission entered into some promotional efforts, published a newsletter, and sent representatives to meetings involving the regulatory process.

The 1998 and 1999 seasons again saw decreased assessment income. The commissioners remained cautious about spending, being sure to maintain a presence during the regulatory process to ensure the availability to fish, and trying to find the best way to promote troll caught chinook without spending a fortune.

Commission assessments have grown over the last few years allowing the Commission to expand its promotional activities (see article on the next page), send out this newsletter, and continue to have representatives at regulatory meetings.

The Commission office is still at Nancy's home with a separate phone line and room for the business. The Commission contracts with her for about 42-60 hours of work a month (1/4 to less than 1/2 time). Because of this, she has other contract jobs that are carried out at other locations. So be patient if the phone is not answered by a live person when you call, she will return the call as soon as possible.

The Oregon Salmon Commission and its commissioners are working hard to ensure that there are seasons for salmon fishing, and educating the public about the superior quality of Oregon Troll Caught Chinook Salmon.

*This chart shows the total assessment income for the Commission from its inception to the present. The personal services category was for the time the Commission had employees. Contract services are included in the Materials and Supplies category from 1991 on.*

Fiscal Year	Assessment Income	Expenditures Personal Sers	Expenditures Mtrls & Supplies	Expenditures Promo/Newsletter	Expenditures Total
1985/86	26,418.63	\$-	9,162.29	16,044.79	25,207.08
1986/87	50,894.35	\$-	38,220.15	37,394.88	75,615.03
1987/88	112,044.54	32,425.62	29,052.02	48,960.78	111,632.71
1988/89	121,789.80	44,751.35	35,046.75	49,409.60	140,361.58
1989/90	74,915.77	55,191.40	29,720.64	36,310.20	121,222.24
1990/91	90,755.81	56,260.52	26,946.90	13,967.98	97,175.40
1991/92	53,289.47	21,374.91	31,246.42	5,745.18	58,366.51
1992/93	36,931.89	\$-	42,892.26	5,275.76	48,168.02
1993/94	22,279.65	\$-	29,623.53	149.00	29,872.83
1994/95	10,444.15	\$-	18,005.58	18,677.55	38,562.09
1995/96	47,923.69	\$-	15,160.47	14,094.21	29,838.68
1996/97	48,420.23	\$-	12,925.03	2,288.91	16,107.94
1997/98	39,248.30	\$-	13,906.65	2,790.75	17,603.40
1998/99	21,537.33	\$-	17,022.00	1,941.38	19,775.38
1999/2000	17,766.51	\$-	16,759.28	869.25	18,308.53
2000/2001	64,832.81	\$-	18,478.08	17,207.60	36,664.74

## Promotional Activities

**Magazine advertisements:** Since 1996, we have had a logo ad in the three seafood editions each year of the *Hospitality News*. This publication reaches the 13 western states for their foodservice marketplaces. The ad varies from recipes, to information about the season, to the fisherman and the fishery.

**Salmon Extravaganza:** Ocean Beauty in Beaverton sponsored a Salmon Extravaganza on August 9-10, 2002. The Commission assisted by providing a dory boat and fisherman. Jim Allen of Pacific City drove his dory to the event and spent two days on site meeting with the public. He helped educate the public about the ins and outs of the Oregon troll industry and its operations. He specified that salmon are caught by hook and line and demonstrated setting and retrieving gear. During this time, salmon filets were barbecued for patrons to sample. They sold around 1,000 pounds a day of Oregon salmon filets.

**New Seasons Markets promotions:** Four *New Seasons Markets* in the Portland area invited fishermen to be at the stores to meet the public during their Northwest Troll Caught Chinook Salmon sale August 3-4, 2002. The Commission provided for six fishermen to attend. They took gear and brochures and did a great job informing the public about the fishery.

**Oregon Wine and Food Events:** In May 2001, Governor Kitzhaber led a coalition of food and wine partners to kick off a major Oregon agriculture promotion in New York and Washington DC. The promotion was the largest showcase of Oregon products on the East Coast in 15 years. Forty-one wineries, three specialty gourmet food companies, six food commissions (Oregon Salmon Commission, Oregon Albacore Commission, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, Oregon Trawl Commission, Oregon Hazelnut Marketing Board, and Pear Bureau Northwest) all worked together to present Oregon products. Three distinguished Oregon chefs attended and prepared recipes using Oregon food products; Greg Higgins of Higgins Restaurant and Bar in Portland, Cory Schreiber of Wildwood Restaurant & Bar in Portland, and Jack Czarnecki of the Joel Palmer House in Dayton. Crab and salmon were flown in for the dinner with Governor Kitzhaber and were prepared optimally to show off how delicious they were. Everyone felt it was a nice touch to have a background bio and pictures of the fisherman who caught the salmon.

In the fall of 2001, two Food and Wine Events were held, in the west coast cities of Portland and San Francisco. The Portland event hosted 650 wine and food trades, and 250 exhibitors. Again the Salmon Commission helped sponsor and provide salmon for the chefs.

In August and September of 2002, *Vintage Oregon – The Best of Oregon Food & Wine* events were held in Portland, Seattle, Phoenix, and Los Angeles. All of these events have helped spread the word about Oregon Troll Caught Chinook Salmon.

**The Seafood Steward:** The Commission has contracted with Gary Peutz to provide us with promotional opportunities through radio spots, television, store demonstrations, and talking to retailers and the hospitality industry. He is using his connections to promote Oregon Chinook in various venues.

**Billboard:** A billboard on Highway 99 just south of Corvallis (near Airport Road) has a picture of a fisherman holding a large salmon with the words "Go Wild" off to the side. This billboard will be up for a year—be sure to see it if you are in the valley.

**Logo Ad:** A logo ad was in the Tillamook shopper for the month of August to promote Oregon Troll Caught Chinook Salmon.

*If you have suggestions on promotional ideas and/or opportunities, please contact the office.*

### Alaska's "Buy Wild" TV Spots

A new television commercial shot last fall in Cordova, Alaska, will feature Alaska salmon fishermen asking consumers to buy wild Alaska salmon over farmed salmon and seeking support for the state's natural resource and the Alaska fisherman's way of life. Paid for by the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI), the television spots will begin airing nationwide this spring to an estimated 40-60 million viewers. *October 2001, worldcatch.com*

### Fisherman Fees for OSC

When fishermen sell their salmon to the first purchaser, a 1.5% fee is taken out for the Oregon Salmon Commission. The first purchaser mails these collected amounts each month to the Commission. This is the only fee that is taken out of the fisherman's pay. Other ODFW taxes are paid by the first purchaser.

## Cedar Planked Salmon Recipe

Planked salmon is a method of cooking and smoking salmon that has been used for many years. Make sure to use natural red cedar (no preservatives). The salmon is slow cooked, which produces a rich, smoky flavor.

24 x 8 x 1 inch untreated cedar plank  
6 (4 ounce) filets salmon  
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil  
onion, sliced  
lemon

1. Submerge untreated cedar plank in water. Soak 12 hours or overnight.
2. Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat. Place prepared plank on the grill, and sprinkle with coarse salt. Cover grill and heat plank 2-3 minutes, until dry. Adjust grill temperature for medium heat.
3. Rub salmon filets with olive oil. Arrange on plank. Top salmon with onion, lemon slices, and whatever spices you enjoy on salmon.
4. Cook salmon, covered, 20-30 minutes, or until opaque and easily flaked with a fork.

## “The Wandering Fleet”

A troll video has been developed and should be completed this fall. Jim Bergeron in conjunction with Oregon Sea Grant proposed creating an educational program about the cultural importance of ocean salmon commercial fishing on the West Coast using the words of the men and women involved. It shows how fishers moved from a life ashore to become identified with the sea. It also shows how they interacted to develop a highly technical yet simple small boat fishery ranging from central California to southeastern Alaska and how it changed when salmon declined. 21 fishers have been recorded on production quality equipment, transcripts made, and a script developed from their words. The script and the recordings have been developed into a half-hour video to be used as the foundation for the educational program. Many people and organizations helped with the funding of the project, including Oregon Sea Grant, The Seafood Producers Cooperative, Clatsop County Extension, Fish and Wildlife at OSU, and the Oregon Salmon Commission. The first showing will be in the fall at the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, with other showings up and down the coast. More information will be available at a later date.

## News Flash

Maine fish farmers have been forced to kill more than 700,000 salmon this year in an attempt to stop the spread of a deadly fish virus that some compare to the foot-and-mouth disease that has decimated European cattle. September 2001, The Boston Globe

## Restoration & Enhancement (R&E) Board

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's Fish Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Program is a legislatively mandated funding program aimed at increasing fish and/or fisheries in Oregon. It is funded through sport and commercial fishing fees. Applicants submit proposals which are reviewed by Department staff, an R&E Board, and the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

There are two parts to the program—restoration and enhancement. Each must be funded equally. Restoration refers to upkeep of facilities such as hatcheries or fishways; enhancement is for increasing fisheries and fish populations. Enhancement includes access (e.g., boat ramps), propagation, habitat, monitoring and education.

The R&E Sunset Workgroup will discuss the direction of the Program in light of the program's scheduled "sunset" (expiration) in 2003 and the upcoming 2003 Legislative Session. The Program has been scheduled to sunset in the past and it has been renewed each time (1991 and 1997). The workgroup will come up with Legislative concepts for the program.

The Oregon Salmon Commission would appreciate any and all ideas for projects that fishermen feel would be beneficial to the ocean salmon industries as well as contribute to the economies of coastal cities. New projects for R&E consideration must be submitted by November 22, 2002 for the 2003 budget process.

### Preliminary catch estimates through 9/29/02 Number of chinook harvested by area

<u>Mgmt Area</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Columbia R	12,836	4,091	2,245
Tillamook	20,018	24,890	11,034
Newport	75,213	158,636	41,553
Coos Bay	102,417	67,228	55,913
<u>Brookings</u>	<u>6,212</u>	<u>2,871</u>	<u>2,605</u>
<u>Oregon Totals</u>	<u>216,696</u>	<u>257,716</u>	<u>113,350</u>

## Salmon Fleet Stats

According to numbers from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife of the 1,200 licensed troll permits, 449 boats landed salmon in the 2001 season. Of those 449 boats, 69 of them took 50% of the poundage and 222 boats took 90% of the poundage.

Therefore:

37.4% of the entire fleet landed fish  
5.7% of the entire fleet landed 50% of the fish  
18.5% of the entire fleet landed 90% of the fish

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15.3% of those boats landing salmon caught 50% of the fish

49.4% of those boats landing salmon caught 90% of the fish

**Preliminary 2001 Oregon Ocean Commercial Troll Salmon Catch & Effort Estimates  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**

Mgmt Area	Number Days of Effort			Number of Fish Harvested Chinook		
	2001	2000	1999	2001	2000	1999
Columbia R (2)	247	267	1	4,384	2,226	15
Tillamook (3)	1,350	886	691	26,051	16,022	2,806
Newport (4)	5,216	2,696	1,542	166,614	48,996	15,864
Coos Bay (5)	3,791	3,174	2,527	72,109	63,901	41,941
Brookings (6)	471	274	248	3,562	3,466	1,362
<b>Oregon Totals</b>	<b>11,076</b>	<b>7,297</b>	<b>5,009</b>	<b>272,720</b>	<b>134,611</b>	<b>61,988</b>
Washington (1)	5	33	26	1,194	437	1,081
California (7)	26	5	8	539	124	90
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>11,106</b>	<b>7,336</b>	<b>5,043</b>	<b>274,453</b>	<b>136,172</b>	<b>63,159</b>

Columbia River Area (2) includes effort and catch from Leadbetter Pt., WA to Cape Falcon  
Tillamook Area (3) includes effort and catch from Cape Falcon to Cascade head  
Newport Area (4) includes effort and catch from Cascade head to Heceta Head  
Coos Bay Area (5) includes effort and catch from Heceta Head to Humbug Mountain  
Brookings Area (6) includes effort and catch from Humbug Mountain to Pt. St. George, CA  
Washington Area (1) includes effort and catch north of Leadbetter Pt., WA that was landed in Oregon  
California Area (7) includes effort and catch south of Pt. St. George, CA that was landed in Oregon

### Health Benefits of Eating Salmon

In the August 2001 global issue of "Self" magazine an article "The Miracle Health Food, Hint: It Swims!" talks about the benefits of eating fish. The omega-3 fatty acids have proven benefits for your heart and other parts of the body. They list the fish with the most omega-3s as those from cold waters with salmon being the highest on the list. The American Heart Association recommends two 3- to 6-ounce servings a week.

"Fish protects against two major causes of heart attacks - irregular heartbeats and blood clots," says Ronald Krauss, M.D., head of molecular and nuclear medicine at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory of the University of California at Berkeley. A recent Harvard University study found eating fish two to four times a week cut stroke risk by half in 80,000 women. *Self, August 2001*

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Omega-3 fatty acids - found in salmon, swordfish, and tuna - are one of the healthier forms of fat. Now, a study shows that they may also help relieve depression. In a study involving people with recurrent depression, 60% showed significantly reduced symptoms of depression, says lead author Boris Nemets, MD, a researcher at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel. His study appears in the March issue of American Journal of Psychiatry, reported WebMD.

### Oregon Salmon Commission Scholarships

The Oregon Salmon Commission is offering college scholarships through the Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC). The OSAC administers more than 230 private scholarship programs established by donors from throughout the state of Oregon. These programs range from small, one-time awards for graduates of a particular high school to large, renewable scholarships available statewide. This scholarship will be available to graduating high school seniors and dependents of licensed Oregon commercial troll salmon fishermen. Recipients for 2002 are Clare Goddard of Bandon, and Erin VanCurler of Florence. Congratulations to both of you in your future endeavors.

The OSAC Annual Scholarship Application booklet is available with high school guidance counselors and completed applications must be postmarked no later than March 1 of each year. You can get the application and other materials from their website at [www.osac.state.or.us](http://www.osac.state.or.us)

## 2001 Oregon Troll Permit Lottery

At the end of 2000, the number of Oregon salmon troll permits was 138 below the mandated 1,200 permits allowed. A lottery was held and those 138 permits were issued. The following chart from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife shows the breakdown for the permits that were selected in the lottery.

### By Applicant's State of Residence

State	Number of Applicants	Successful Applicants	Percent of Successful
Alaska	3	1	0.7%
California	75	39	28.3%
Oregon	152	86	62.3%
Washington	24	12	8.7%
Totals	254	138	100.0%

### By Applicant's Vessel Length

Length class (ft)	Number of Applicants	Successful Applicants	Percent of Successful
15.1 - 20.0	25	16	11.6%
20.1 - 25.0	40	21	15.2%
25.1 - 30.0	24	15	10.9%
30.1 - 35.0	34	22	15.9%
35.1 - 40.0	32	15	10.9%
40.1 - 45.0	32	9	6.5%
45.1 - 50.0	28	17	12.3%
50.0 - 60.0	26	14	10.1%
Over 60	12	8	5.8%
Length not given	1	1	0.7%
Totals	254	138	100.0%

## Klamath River Situation

Commercial salmon fishermen and environmental groups (PCFFA, The Wilderness Society, WaterWatch of Oregon, North Coast Environmental Center, Oregon Natural Resource Council, Defenders of Wildlife and the Klamath Forest Alliance) filed suit Wednesday April 24, in U.S. District Court in Oakland, California, to make federal water managers in the Klamath Basin release more water into the Klamath River for salmon. They sought a court order requiring the Bureau of Reclamation to release about twice as much water as its plan calls for into the Klamath River during May.

The Klamath Water Users Association said that farmers are concerned that this would limit water to farms trying to recover from last year.

-Michael Milstein The Oregonian 4/25/02

The Bush administration moved vigorously Monday April 29 to block a court bid by fishermen and environmentalists to protect young coho salmon, contending that increased flows in the Klamath River would come at the expense of upstream farmers and wildlife

-Deborah Schoch Times Staff Writer 4/30/02

## Fast Growing Atlantics?

Aqua Bounty Farms has applied to the FDA for permission to sell Atlantic salmon that reaches market size twice as fast as conventional farmed salmon. The fish was genetically altered to produce extra growth hormones, a change aimed at increasing farmers' output and reducing consumer prices. *September 2001, The Sacramento Bee*

## Top Food Retailers

To find a listing of the top 75 food retailers in the U.S. see this internet address:

[www.supermarketnews.com/sntop75.htm](http://www.supermarketnews.com/sntop75.htm)

A listing of the top 25 food retailers in the world:

[www.supermarketnews.com/sntop25.htm](http://www.supermarketnews.com/sntop25.htm)

Wal-Mart tops the list in both; only 1/3 of Wal-Mart's sales are in the U.S.

Another interesting fact: Kroger has twice the stores as Wal-Mart (2392 to 1060) with fewer sales (\$50 billion compared to \$65 billion).

## 2002 Permit Lottery

A lottery was held July 18, 2002 and 17 Oregon Troll Salmon Vessel permits were issued by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

A federal judge Friday, May 3 denied a request by fishing and environmental groups to direct more water into the Klamath River for salmon instead of to Oregon and California farmers. U.S. District Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong in Oakland suggested that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation may be violating the federal Endangered Species Act by delivering water to farmers without full environmental clearance. But Armstrong could not find a reason to order more water into the river for protected fish. - Micheal Milstein, The Oregonian 5/4/02

About 30,000 adult salmon have died in the Klamath Fall Chinook Die-off apparently from a gill disease that is common when salmon encounter sluggish, warm river water. The Trinity Management Council voted to ask Interior Secretary Gale Norton for an emergency release of water. Federal officials are looking into the request, but say there are other issues to consider. A lawsuit has been filed by environmentalists and PCFFA saying that the government is required to protect the Klamath coho salmon because it is listed as a threatened species.

# Marine Protected Areas

## OCZMA's Reaction to Marine Protected Areas

At the January 11, 2002 meeting of the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) were discussed. A panel consisting of Bob Bailey, Ocean Program Manager, Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD), Scott Boley, Fisherman, Gold Beach and Pacific Marine Conservation Council (PMCC), and Hans Radtke, Chair, Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) discussed the topic of Marine Protected Areas off the Oregon Coast. Members of OCZMA which include representatives from counties, cities, ports, and soil and water conservation districts asked questions and looked for clarification about the impact of MPAs.

At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made by Scott Boley (Port of Gold Beach), seconded by Lucie LaBonte (Curry County) and approved unanimously by the OCZMA members present.

### Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Motion Language:

Oregon coastal governments are opposed to any further reductions to commercial and recreational fisheries and the economy and lifestyle of the coast. Before designation of any marine reserves and/or broadening of existing marine protected areas were to occur, the following items must be accomplished:

1) Clear goals must be established for each proposed area. (These include answers to questions such as: Why is the reserve being proposed? What are the expected benefits? What will be the timeline and criteria used for evaluating reserve effectiveness?)

2) The impacts (social, economic, etc.) on coastal communities, recreational and commercial fisheries must be analyzed. (Exploring potential mitigation for impacted fishermen would be part of this analysis.)

3) The fishing community must be involved in the development in a meaningful manner.

4) An achievable enforcement plan must be developed and implemented parallel with reserve implementation.

5) Initial biological baseline information must be collected and monitoring continued for each reserve area.

6) The funding for study, establishment, monitoring, and enforcement of MPAs must be provided. Adequate funding must be in place prior to the establishment of MPAs. The activities revolving around MPAs cannot be an unfunded mandate placing additional economic burdens on local governments and fishing communities.

In addition, to use marine reserves as a fishery management tool that contributes to groundfish conservation and management goals, marine reserves must have measurable effects, and, marine reserves must be integrated with other fishery management approaches.

## New ODFW Program Manager

Patty Burke, Ph.D. has been hired by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife as the Program Manager of the Marine Division at South Beach.

## OPAC Votes to Approve Marine Protected Areas

The Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) met in August to vote on whether to recommend Marine Protected Areas. The council voted 12-3, with one abstention, to establish a system of protected areas in the ocean where no fishing would be allowed. They did not say where they should be created or how big they should be. The council considered OCZMA's statement about marine protected areas, but decided not to accept the complete guidelines.

The group will begin soliciting public comment about specific areas for establishing reserves. Before establishing how much of the three-mile strip of state waters along Oregon's 360 mile coastline to protect, they want to hear from fishermen, environmentalists, scientists, coastal communities and others.

According to the chair of the Marine Sciences Department at the University of South Alabama, the type of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which allow no harvests of fish are virtually useless as a fishery management tool. Dr. Robert Shipp says in a report just released earlier this month that out of more than 350 fish stocks he examined, the no-harvest zones offered no fishery management benefit in 98% of stocks studied. Where the goal is maximum sustainable yield, MPAs are generally not as effective as traditional management measures such as the use of size limits, catch limits and seasons. Shipp's study states that many species don't require the kind of severe restrictions imposed by no-take MPAs. According to NMFS, just 8% of U.S. fish stocks in the Exclusive Economic Zone are reported as being overfished, and most of those are either primarily pelagic or highly mobile species, movement patterns which don't lend themselves to benefiting from MPAs. Shipp says that for management purposes, to close down a fishery for all species on a permanent basis is unnecessary.

Copies of the report, which was made possible in part through a grant from the ASA's Fish America Foundation, may be obtained electronically from the ASA.

## Country of Origin Labeling

The new 2002 Farm Bill authorizes USDA to develop mandatory country of origin labeling regulations by September 30, 2004.

The law will require retailers to inform consumers of country of origin at the final point of sale for covered commodities including muscle cuts of beef, lamb, and pork; ground beef, lamb, and pork; farm-raised fish and shellfish; wild fish and shellfish; and perishable agricultural commodities. Any seafood product will need information on whether it is wild captured or farm-raised.