

Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture Hearing
May 24, 2017

Pacific Salmon Management:
The Pacific Fishery Management Council Process

Background Materials
Provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Table of Contents

1. Recent Trends in California’s Regional Ocean Salmon Fishery Performance Compared with 2017 Projections	1
2. 2017 Commercial Ocean Salmon Regulations	6
http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon	
3. 2017 Ocean Salmon Sport Regulations	7
http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon	
4. 2017 California Ocean Salmon Preseason Process: Calendar of Events	8
http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon/Preseason	
5. Salmon Advisory Subpanel Representatives	9
http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/council-and-committees/salmon-advisory-subpanel/	
6. Additional Online Resources	9

Recent Trends in California's Regional Ocean Salmon Fishery Performance Compared with 2017 Projections – CDFW Staff Analysis

Commercial Exvessel Value

- Commercial ocean salmon fisheries along the entire California coast in **2017** are projected to result in a total exvessel value of **\$4.5 million**, which is **64% less than the 2012-16 average of \$12.7 million**. This estimate is derived from projected catch and expected price paid.
- Statewide landings in 2017 are projected at 47,600 fish (Figure 1), which is 72% less than the 2012-16 average of 169,400 fish. Projections vary by management area, as shown in Figure 2. Statewide projected total exvessel value and average price per pound is shown in Figure 3. In 2017, areas north of Monterey are projected to incur the greatest economic loss, as shown below comparing projected 2017 exvessel values for each management area to the 2012-16 averages.
 - CA Klamath Management Zone (OR/CA border to Horse Mountain)
 - 100% reduction due to complete area closure (\$220,000 to \$0)
 - Fort Bragg area (Horse Mountain to Point Arena)
 - 93% reduction (\$4.4 million to \$290,000)
 - San Francisco area (Point Arena to Pigeon Point)
 - 69% reduction (\$6.3 million to \$1.9 million)
 - Monterey and south area (Pigeon Point to U.S./Mexico Border)
 - 29% increase (\$1.8 million to \$2.3 million)
 - Despite a significantly shortened season in this area due to winter-run concerns, both catch and revenues are projected to exceed the most recent 5-year average. Catch projections for 2017 were derived from historical catches, which exceeded the recent average in this area.
- For the second year in a row, the Yurok Tribe's 2017 commercial in-river fishery will be closed. During the previous five years that this fishery occurred (2011-15), the Yurok Tribe harvested an average of 36,000 fall Chinook annually.
- Most businesses and infrastructure that rely on the commercial fishing industry are unable to move their location elsewhere. These include commercial seafood buyers, ice suppliers, fuel docks, marinas, marine supply stores, etc. When the fishery is closed in their area, they can expect to receive very little, if any, salmon-related revenue. For many of these businesses, salmon-related revenue is their primary source of revenue throughout the summer.

Recreational Days Open and Landings

- To assess the economic impact of recreational ocean fishing seasons, opportunity (i.e., number of days open) can be a useful index. Numbers of fish caught in prior years can also be informative as people are more likely to spend money to go fishing during times when they are more likely to catch fish. Recreational ocean salmon fisheries along the entire California coast in **2017** will result in **457 total days** open, which is **36% less than the 2012-16 average of 711 days**. It is projected that **35,000 Chinook** will be landed in the California recreational ocean salmon fishery in 2017, which is **55% less than the 2012-16 average of 78,000 Chinook**. Projected recreational catch and days open for 2017 are compared to historical values in Figure 4, and broken out by management area in Figure 5. As with the commercial fishery, the more northerly areas of the state are projected to be hardest hit, as shown by comparing 2017 projections for each management area to the 2012-16 averages.
 - CA Klamath Management Zone (OR/CA border to Horse Mountain)
 - 100% reduction in days open due to area closure (116 to 0)
 - 100% reduction in projected catch due to area closure (19,600 to 0)
 - Fort Bragg area (Horse Mountain to Point Arena)
 - 31% reduction in days open (220 to 151)
 - 79% reduction in projected catch (8,200 to 1,700)
 - The open days eliminated in this area (June 1 – August 14) are when recent averages suggest the best fishing occurs.
 - San Francisco area (Point Arena to Pigeon Point)
 - 7% reduction in days open (214 to 200)
 - 31% reduction in projected catch (38,300 to 26,400)
 - Monterey and south area (Pigeon Point to U.S./Mexico Border)
 - 34% reduction in days open (160 to 106)
 - 42% reduction in projected catch (11,900 to 6,900)
- **The recreational fall-run Chinook fishery on the Klamath and Trinity rivers** will be closed which could result in a **loss of an estimated \$2.5 million** in total economic output. There are also an estimated **42 jobs** that could be impacted by this closure (California Fish and Game Commission *Amended* Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action, Re: Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations, dated April 17, 2017. Available online at: http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/2017/7_50_kt_isor2.pdf).

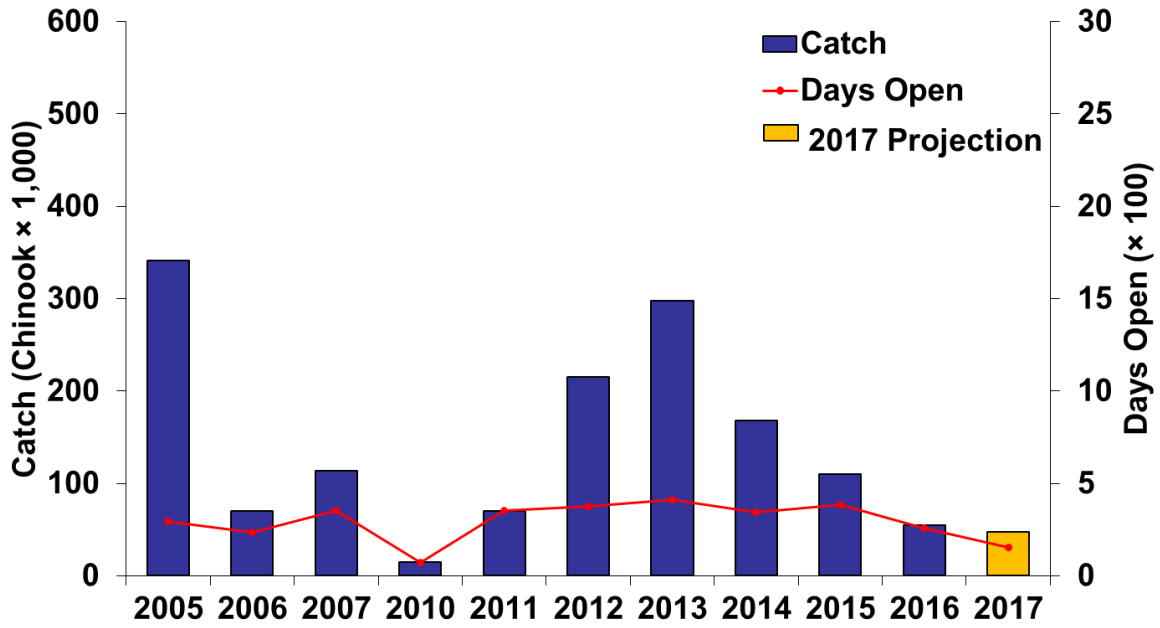
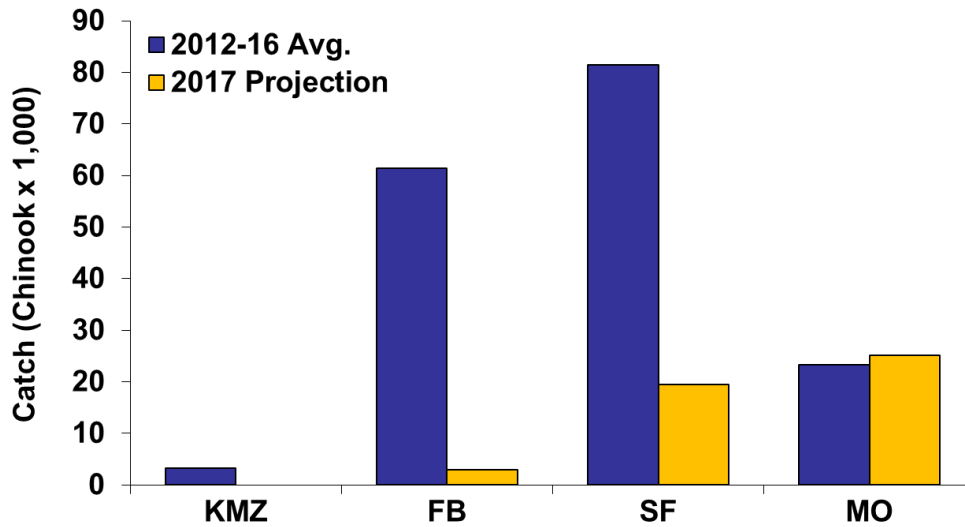


Figure 1. Statewide commercial catch (2005-2016) and days open, compared with projected catch for 2017.



Days Open

2012-16 Avg.	20	94	136	104
2017 Projection	0	22	69	61

Figure 2. Commercial catch for the five-year average (2012-16) compared to projected catch for 2017 by management area, with open fishing days for each time period.

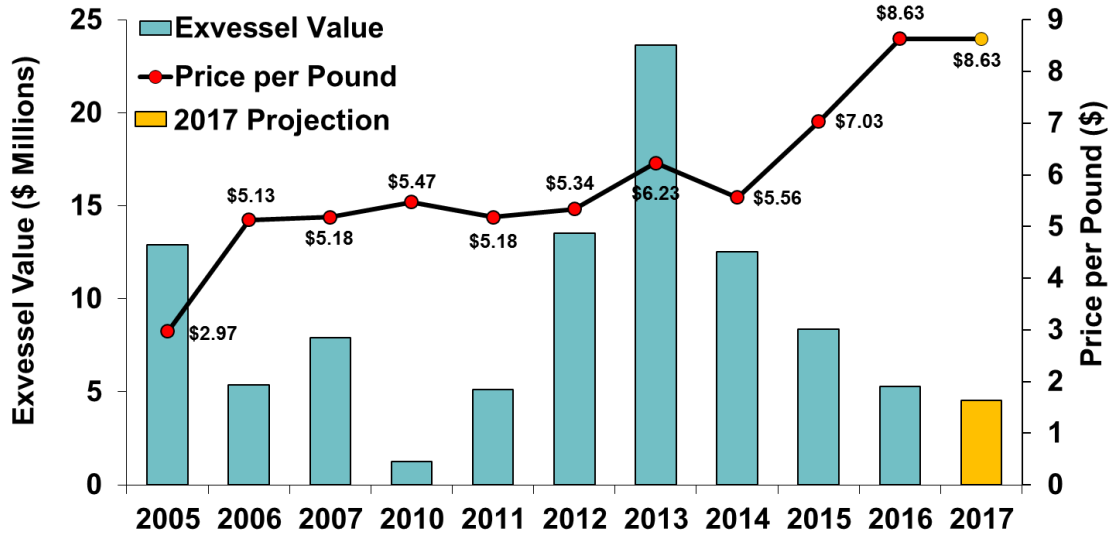


Figure 3. Commercial exvessel value and average price per pound, both historical (2005-2016) and projected for 2017.

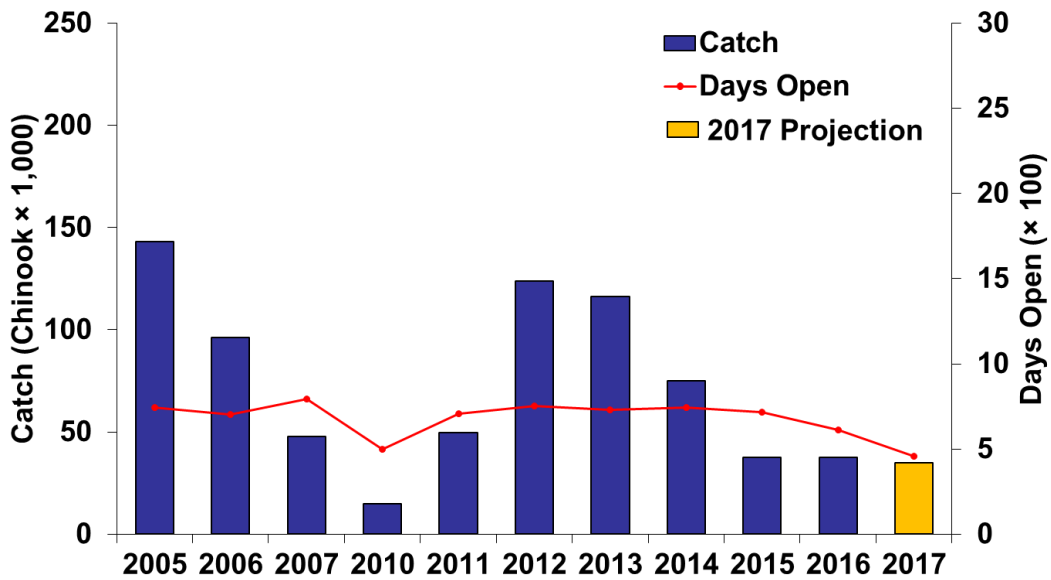
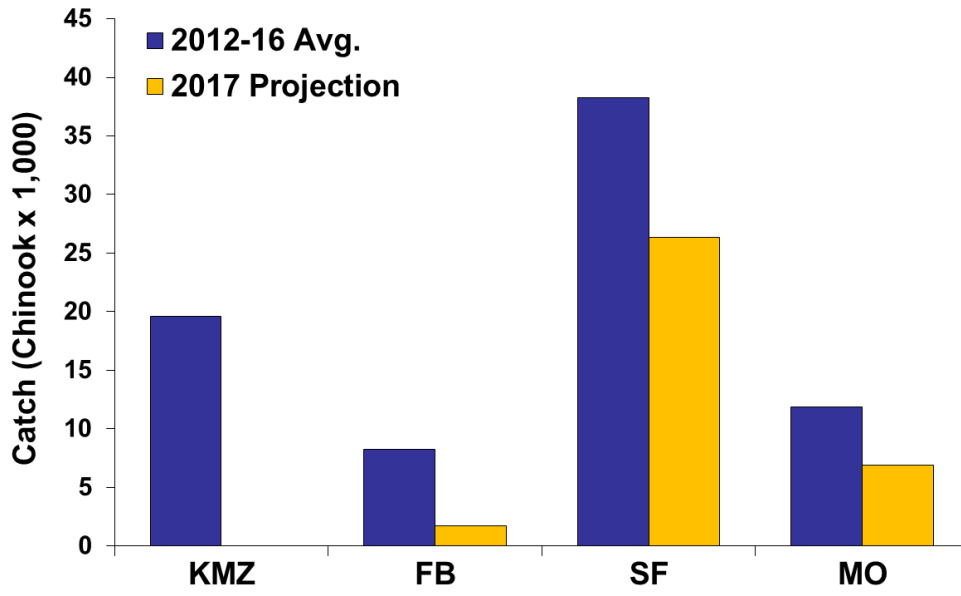


Figure 4. Statewide recreational catch (2005 – 2016) and days open, compared with projected catch for 2017.



Days Open

2012-16 Avg.	116	220	214	160
2017 Projection	0	151	200	106

Figure 5. Recreational catch for the five-year average (2012-16) compared to projected catch for 2017 by management area, with open fishing days for each time period.



State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ocean Salmon Project – Marine Region
www.wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon



2017 Commercial Ocean Salmon Regulations

OR/CA Border to Humboldt South Jetty (KMZ):

- Closed

Horse Mountain to Point Arena:

- September 1-30 or 3,000 Chinook quota
 - five days per week, open Friday through Tuesday
 - minimum size limit: 27 inches total length
 - landing and possession limit of 60 Chinook per open period
 - all salmon caught in the area must be landed between the OR/CA border and Pt. Arena, and within 24 hours of any closure of the fishery

Point Arena to Pigeon Point:

- August 1-29*
 - minimum size limit: 27 inches total length
- September 1-30
 - minimum size limit: 26 inches total length
 - during September, all fish caught in the area must be landed south of Pt. Arena until the quota in the Fort Bragg fishery and the fishery has closed for 24 hours

Point Reyes to Point San Pedro:

- October 2-6, 9-13
 - five days per week, open Monday through Friday
 - minimum size limit: 26 inches total length
 - all salmon caught in the area must be landed between Pt. Reyes and Pt. San Pedro

Pigeon Point to U.S./Mexico Border:

- May 1 – June 30*
 - minimum size limit: 27 inches total length

* All salmon must be landed and offloaded by 11:59 pm August 30th



General Commercial Regulations

- **All salmon except Coho; all commercial salmon must be landed in California**
- **Single point, single shank barbless hooks are required**
- **No more than 6 lines are allowed per vessel**
- **Compliance with minimum size or other special restrictions:** All salmon on board a vessel must meet the minimum size and other special requirements for the area being fished and the area in which they are landed if that area is open or has been closed less than 48 hours. Salmon may be landed in an area that is closed more than 48 hours only if they meet the minimum size and other special requirements for the area in which they were caught AND it is not otherwise prohibited in the regulations.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Any person required to complete a landing receipt for the landing of salmon shall on the same landing receipt accurately record the total number of salmon landed in the "Note Pad" field of the landing receipt. Any person who lands salmon shall keep a copy of all landing receipts documenting salmon landings on board the fishing vessel that caught the salmon until 15 days after the last salmon season closure for the calendar year (Fish & Game Code §8043, CCR T14 §182).
- **Transit through closed area 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.
- **Barbless circle hooks¹ required when fishing with bait and fishing by any means other than trolling²**
 1. A **CIRCLE HOOK** is defined as a hook with a generally circular shape and a point which turns inwards, pointing directly to the shank at a 90-degree angle.
 2. **TROLLING** is defined as angling 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.

NOTE: When Pacific halibut are caught and landed incidentally in the commercial salmon troll fishery under an authorized license, both the number of Pacific halibut landed and the number of salmon landed must be recorded on the landing receipt. Please see federal regulations for incidental Pacific halibut harvest requirements and restrictions.



State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ocean Salmon Project – Marine Region
www.wildlife.ca.gov/oceansalmon



2017 Ocean Salmon Sport Regulations

OR/CA Border to Horse Mountain:

- ◆ Closed

Horse Mountain to Point Arena (Fort Bragg):

- ◆ April 1 – May 31; August 15 – November 12
 - minimum size limit: 20 inches total length

Point Arena to Pigeon Point (San Francisco):

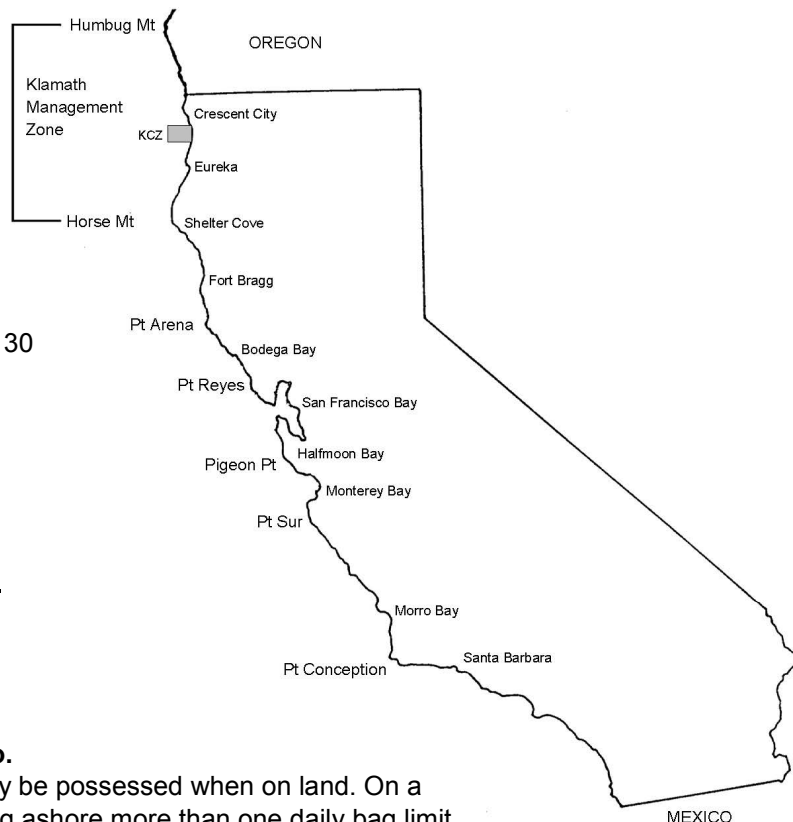
- ◆ April 1-30; May 15 – October 31
 - minimum size limit: 24 inches total length through April 30
 20 inches total length thereafter

Pigeon Point to Point Sur (Monterey North):

- ◆ April 1 – July 15
 - minimum size limit: 24 inches total length

Point Sur to U.S./Mexico Border (Monterey South):

- ◆ April 1 – May 31
 - minimum size limit: 24 inches total length



General Sport Regulations

- **Daily bag limit: 2 salmon of any species except Coho.**
- **Possession limit:** No more than two daily bag limits may be possessed when on land. On a vessel in ocean waters, no person shall possess or bring ashore more than one daily bag limit.
- **Retention of Coho salmon or steelhead trout is prohibited in any ocean fishery.**
- **Salmon may not be filleted on any boat or prior to being brought ashore.**
- **Salmon may only be taken by angling as defined in CCR T14 §1.05.** No sinkers or weights exceeding 4 lbs may be used, except that a fishing line may be attached to a sinker or weight of any size if such sinker or weight is suspended by a separate line & the fishing line is released automatically by a mechanical device from the sinker or weight when any fish is hooked.
- **North of Point Conception:** No more than two single-point, single-shank barbless hooks shall be used & no more than one rod per angler when fishing for salmon or fishing from a boat with salmon on board.
- **Horse Mountain to Point Conception:** When fishing with bait and angling by any means other than TROLLING¹, no more than two single-point, single-shank barbless circle hooks² shall be used. The distance between the two hooks must not exceed 5 inches when measured from the top of the eye of the top hook to the inner base of the curve of the lower hook and both hooks must be permanently tied in place (hard tied).

Note: These special gear restrictions apply to each angler fishing for salmon or fishing from any boat or floating device with salmon on board.

1. *TROLLING is defined as angling 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.*
2. *A CIRCLE HOOK is defined as a hook with a generally circular shape and a point which turns inwards, pointing directly to the shank at a 90-degree angle.*

Recovery of coded-wire tag from salmon head: Any person in possession of a recreationally taken salmon with a missing adipose fin (the small, fleshy fin on the back of the fish between the back fin and tail) shall immediately relinquish the head of the salmon, upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the Department, to facilitate the recovery of any coded-wire tag (CCR T14 §1.73).

2017 California Ocean Salmon Preseason Process: Calendar of Events

March 7-13, 2017 - Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Hilton Vancouver Washington - 301 W. Sixth Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

The Council will determine if any in-season action for fisheries scheduled to open in April is needed. They will also adopt three regulatory alternatives for ocean salmon fisheries in effect on or after May 1. Final alternatives for public review will be decided on March 13.

March 15-21, 2017 – Preseason Report II Preparation

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) completes *Preseason Report II: Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for 2017 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations*, available online in late March 2017 at: www.pcouncil.org.

March 15, 2017 - California Fish and Game Commission Meeting - Teleconference

Commission Conference Room 1320 - 1416 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814

Proposed changes to ocean salmon sport fishing regulations for 2017 will be addressed at this meeting. The Commission will take final action on ocean salmon sport fishery regulations in effect during April 2017. The public may address and/or ask questions to the Commission relating to the implementation of its policies or any other matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Agenda, audio, and additional meeting locations available online at:

www.fgc.ca.gov.

March 28, 2017 (7 p.m.) - Pacific Fishery Management Council Public Hearing - California

Town Hall - 363 South Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437

The Council will receive comments from the public on the three California ocean salmon fishery management regulatory alternatives adopted by the Council in March. More information is available at: www.pcouncil.org.

April 6-11, 2017 - Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento - 2001 Point West Way, Sacramento, CA 95815

The Council will tentatively adopt final regulatory measures for analysis by the STT during this meeting. Final adoption of recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service is tentatively scheduled to occur on April 10.

April 13-21, 2017 - Preseason Report III Preparation

The PFMC and STT complete *Preseason Report III: Council-Adopted Management Measures and Environmental Assessment Part 3 for 2017 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations*, available online April 21, 2017 at: www.pcouncil.org.

April 13, 2017 - California Fish and Game Commission Meeting - Teleconference

Commission Conference Room 1320 - 1416 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95814

The Commission will take final action on ocean salmon sport fishery regulations in effect on or after May 1, 2017. The public may address and/or ask questions to the Commission relating to the implementation of its policies or any other matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Agenda, audio, and additional meeting locations available online at: www.fgc.ca.gov.

Who Can I Contact Regarding the Upcoming Salmon Season?

Contact a member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's **Salmon Advisory Subpanel**:

Jim Hie Conservation	Pacific Marine Conservation Council 1423 Vista Ave. Napa, CA 94559	Telephone: (707) 695-8661 Email: jnahie@att.net
George Kautsky California Tribes	Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries PO Box 417 Hoopa, CA 95546	Telephone: (530) 625-4267 ext. 15 Email: hupafish@hoopa-nsn.gov
Dave Bitts California Troll	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations 2679 Sunnygrove McKinleyville, CA 95519	Telephone: (707) 498-3512 Email: dbitts@suddenlink.net
Jim Yarnall California Sport Fisheries	California Sport Fisheries 6308 Eggert Road Eureka, CA 95503	Telephone: (707) 443-2496 Email: jimyarnall@gmail.com
John Atkinson California Charter Boat	Golden Gate Fisherman's Association 42 Seawolf Passage Corte Madera, CA 94925	Telephone: (415) 924-6851 Email: newrayann@comcast.net

To make comments directly to the **Pacific Fishery Management Council** regarding the upcoming salmon season, please visit the Council's website at www.pcouncil.org/contact, or contact the PFMC staff officer for salmon: Robin Ehlke (Robin.Ehlke@noaa.gov).

To make comments directly to the **Fish and Game Commission** regarding the upcoming salmon season, please visit the Commission's website at: www.fgc.ca.gov/contact.

Online Resources:

Review of Ocean Salmon Fisheries (includes in-river escapement data)

Available online in February at:

www.pcouncil.org/salmon/stock-assessment-and-fishery-evaluation-safe-documents/

Preseason Reports I, II, and III

Available online beginning in March at:

www.pcouncil.org/salmon/stock-assessment-and-fishery-evaluation-safe-documents/preseason-reports/

Klamath Basin Age Composition and Stock Projection Reports

Available online beginning in February at:

www.pcouncil.org/salmon/background/document-library/