



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Marine Region  
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor  
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



October 24, 2017

Senator Mike McGuire  
Chair, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture  
California State Senate  
1036 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite D  
Eureka, CA 95501

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES INSEASON UPDATE

Dear Senator McGuire:

As reported to the Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture in May 2017<sup>1</sup>, pre-season projections for salmon harvest in California were generally far below recent 5-year averages. In preparation for your October 27<sup>th</sup> hearing, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) offers this update on 2017 ocean salmon fishery performance to date. Analyses in this memo are provided by the Department's Ocean Salmon Project, and while preliminary, represent the best available information.

All California commercial fisheries have now concluded as of October 13. Recreational fisheries will remain open through October 31 in San Francisco and through November 12 in Ft. Bragg. The data provided for commercial fisheries reflect preliminary 2017 totals available to date; final values are subject to change as the Department completes its data reconciliation efforts this fall. The data provided for recreational fisheries reflects preliminary information available through October 15 and are subject to change as data are finalized and as fisheries end for the season.

The California commercial ocean salmon fishery landed approximately 42,100 Chinook Salmon, or 88 percent of preseason projections. The Monterey management area, spanning Pigeon Point (San Mateo County) southward, fell well below preseason projections with around 12,100 Chinook Salmon landed, or half of the preseason projection. Statewide, total landings were bolstered by better than projected harvest in the San Francisco management area. The 2017 California commercial salmon fishery value is approximately \$4.8 million, representing a 62 percent reduction compared to the previous 5-year average.

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<sup>1</sup><http://fisheries.legislature.ca.gov/sites/fisheries.legislature.ca.gov/files/u8/3a%20Pacific%20Salmon%20Management%20-%20CDFW%20Background.pdf>

In contrast, the California recreational ocean salmon fishery has landed approximately 59,100 Chinook Salmon to date, substantially above the preseason projection of nearly 35,000 fish. This increase in harvest was the result of higher catch rates than anticipated, particularly in the San Francisco management area. While the recreational ocean salmon fishery outperformed preseason catch projections, the far-north incurred a complete area closure. Statewide, there was also a 36 percent reduction in fishing opportunity compared to the 5-year average.

In an effort to update the analyses and materials provided in May, this report also includes other inseason fishery performance metrics for California regions and other west coast states. In addition, the 2017 California ocean salmon fishing regulations, upcoming salmon management events, contact information, and other online resources are included. For further information please contact Marci Yaremko at: [Marci.Yaremko@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Marci.Yaremko@wildlife.ca.gov), or at 858-442-3004.

Sincerely,



Craig Shuman, D. Env.  
Marine Regional Manager

Attachment: Inseason Report on California's Ocean Salmon Fisheries

ec: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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