

Inseason Report on California's Ocean Salmon Fisheries

October 20, 2017

**Prepared for the Joint Committee on Fisheries
and Aquaculture**

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ocean Salmon Project**

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Recent Trends in California's Regional Ocean Salmon Fishery Compared with 2017 Projections and Performance-To-Date

Commercial Ex-vessel Value

- Commercial ocean salmon fisheries along the entire California coast in **2017** have resulted in a total ex-vessel value of approximately **\$4.8 million**, which is **62% less than the 2012-2016 average of \$12.7 million**.
- Statewide landings in 2017 are estimated at 42,100 fish to-date (Figure 1), which is 75% less than the 2012-16 average of 169,400 fish. Landings vary by management area, as shown in Figure 2. Statewide total ex-vessel value and average price per pound are shown in Figure 3. In 2017, areas north of Monterey incurred the greatest economic loss. The 2012-2016 ex-vessel average compared to the 2017 ex-vessel value for each management area is as follows:
 - 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)
 - 96% reduction (\$4.4 million to \$190,000)
 - San Francisco area (Point Arena to Pigeon Point)
 - 51% reduction (\$6.3 million to \$3.1 million)
 - Monterey and south area (Pigeon Point to U.S./Mexico Border)
 - 15% reduction (\$1.8 million to \$1.5 million)
- For the second year in a row, the Yurok Tribe did not authorize a commercial in-river fishery in 2017. 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 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** resulted in **457 total days** open, which is **36% less than the 2012-2016 average of 711 days**. An estimated **59,100 Chinook** have been landed to-date in the 2017 California recreational ocean salmon fishery, which is **24% less than the 2012-16 average of 78,000 Chinook**. 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 two northernmost management areas in the state saw the largest reduction. The 2012-2016 average catch and days open compared to 2017 values for each area are as follows:

- 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 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)
 - 77% reduction in catch (8,200 to 1,900) *
- San Francisco area (Point Arena to Pigeon Point)
 - 7% reduction in days open (214 to 200)
 - 32% increase in catch (38,300 to 50,700)*
- Monterey and south area (Pigeon Point to U.S./Mexico Border)
 - 34% reduction in days open (160 to 106)
 - 45% reduction in catch (11,900 to 6,600)
- **The recreational fall-run Chinook fishery on the Klamath and Trinity rivers is currently closed which may result in a loss of an estimated \$2.5 million in total economic output. There are also an estimated 42 jobs that may be impacted by this closure (see California Fish and Game Commission *Amended* Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action, Re: Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing Regulations, dated April 17, 2017).**

Location abbreviation used in graphs	Management area description
KMZ – Klamath Management Zone	OR/CA Border to Horse Mt.
FB – Fort Bragg	Horse Mt. to Pt. Arena
SF – San Francisco	Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt.
MO - Monterey	Pigeon Pt. to U.S./Mexico Border

*Recreational Ocean Salmon Fisheries along the coast remain open at this time

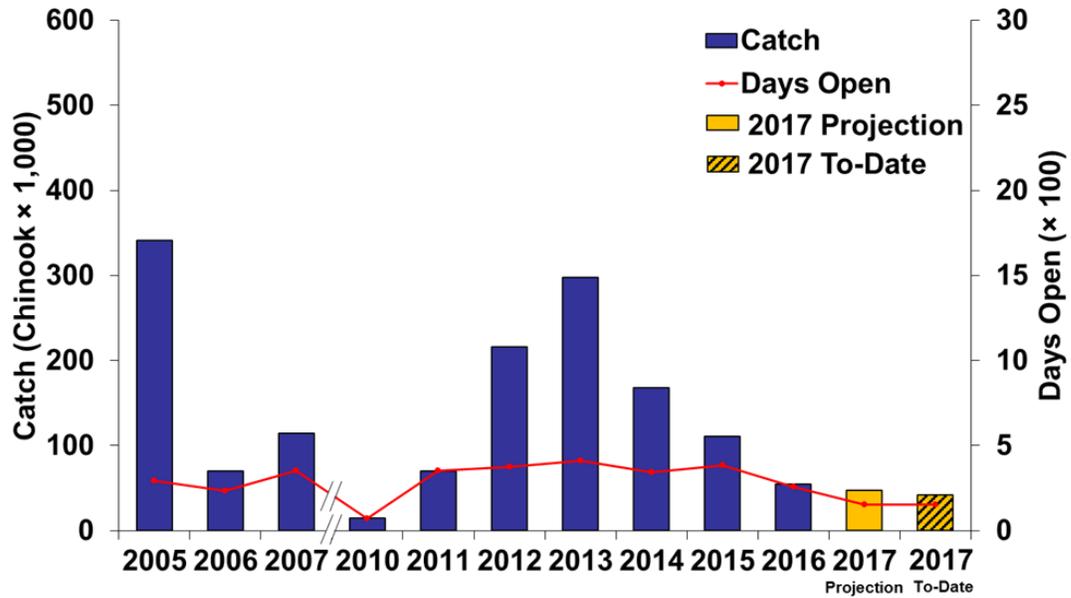
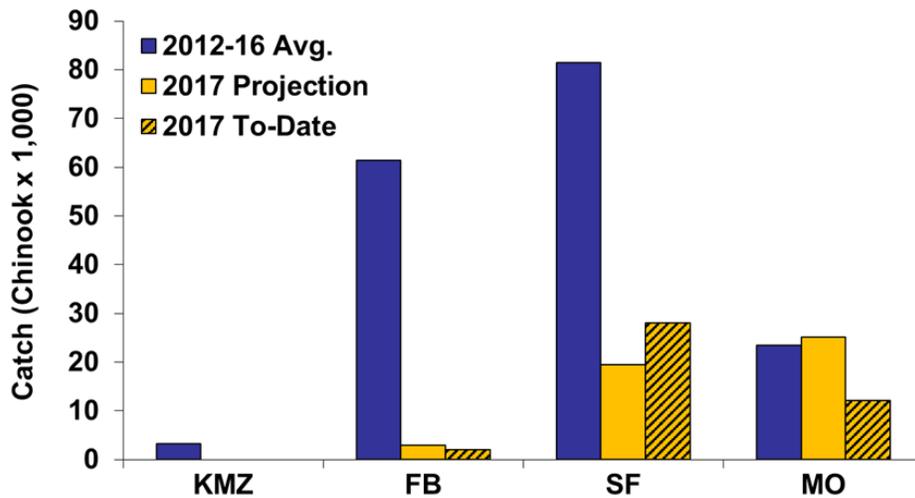


Figure 1. Statewide commercial Chinook Salmon catch (2005-2016) and days open, compared with 2017 projected and 2017 catch-to-date.



Days Open

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

Figure 2. Commercial Chinook Salmon catch for the five-year average (2012-2016) compared to 2017 projected and 2017 catch-to-date by management area, with open fishing days for each time period.

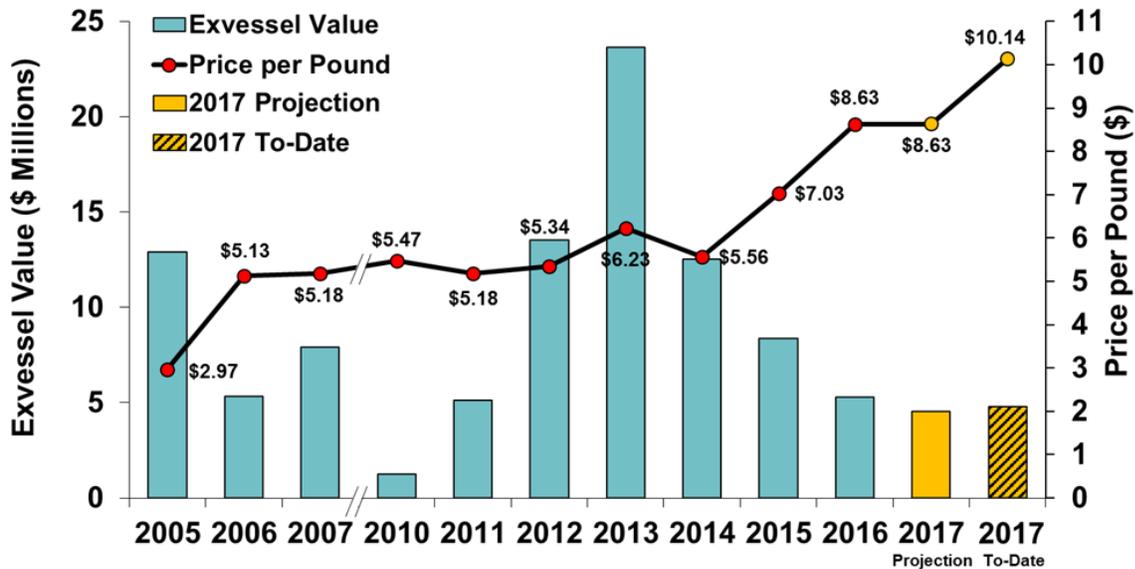


Figure 3. Commercial ex-vessel value and average price per pound – historical (2005-2016), 2017 projected, and 2017 information to date.

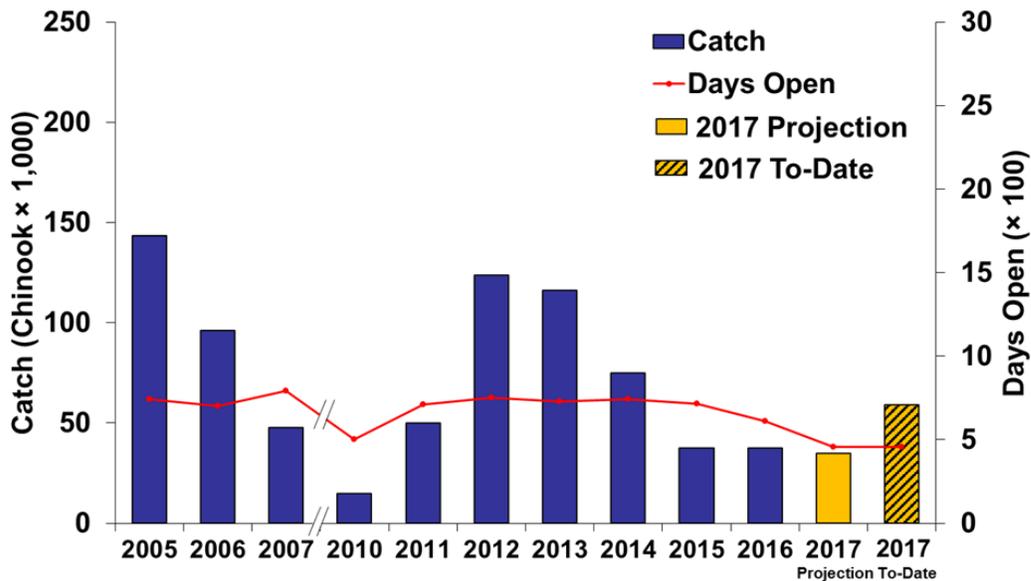
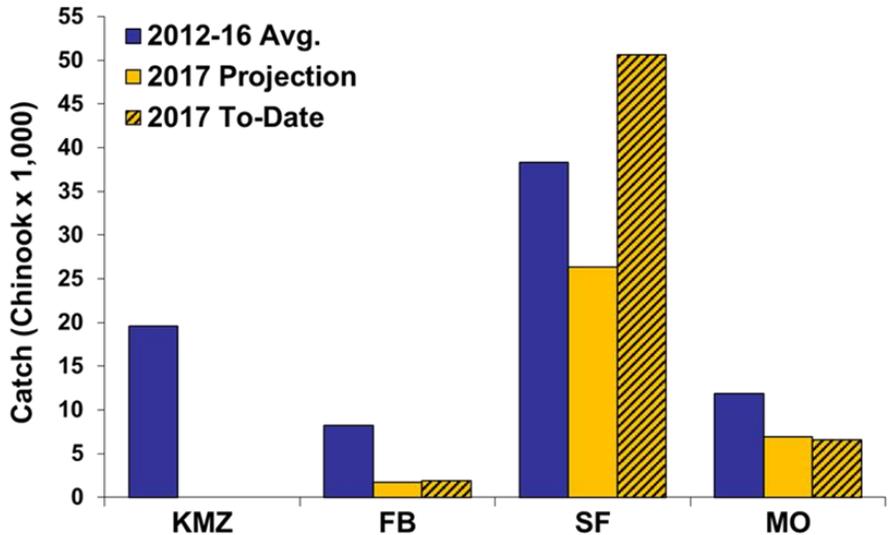


Figure 4. Statewide recreational Chinook Salmon catch (2005-2016) and days open, compared with 2017 projected and 2017 catch-to-date. *Sport fisheries in San Francisco and Ft. Bragg are ongoing.



Days Open

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

Figure 5. Recreational Chinook Salmon catch for the five-year average (2012-2016) compared to 2017 projected and 2017 catch-to-date by management area, with open fishing days for each time period. *Sport fisheries in San Francisco and Ft. Bragg are ongoing.

Pacific Fishery Management Council Supplemental Informational Report

Twice annually in September and November, the Salmon Technical Team of the Pacific Fishery Management Council provides in-season ocean salmon fishery performance statistics for the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. The latest informational report (Supplemental Informational Report 5, September 2017) reflects preliminary ocean salmon fishery harvest and fishing effort statistics through August 2017.

https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Sup_IR_5_In-Season_Salmon_Harvest_Rpt_SEPT2017BB.pdf

Supplemental Informational Report 5
September 2017

STATUS REPORT OF THE 2017 OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES OFF WASHINGTON, OREGON, and CALIFORNIA

Preliminary Data Through August 31, 2017.^{a/}

Fishery and Area	Season Dates	Effort Days Fished	CHINOOK			COHO ^{b/}		
			Catch	Quota	Percent	Catch	Quota	Percent
COMMERCIAL								
Treaty Indian ^{c/}	5/1-6/30	61	3,280	20,000	16%	Non-Retention		
	7/1-9/15	62	20,193	36,720	55%	8,043	12,500	64%
Non-Indian North of Cape Falcon ^{d/e/}	5/1-6/30	1,713	24,815	27,000	92%	Non-Retention		
	7/1-7/4, 7/7-7/11, 7/14-7/18, 7/21-9/19	790	10,742	18,000	60%	1,458	2,500	58%
Cape Falcon - Florence S. Jetty	4/15-5/31,	402	2,398	None	NA	Non-Retention		
	6/7-6/12, 6/15-30, 7/8-7/31	940	14,869	None	NA	Non-Retention		
	9/1-10/31	NA	NA	None	NA	Non-Retention		
Florence S. Jetty - Humbug Mt.	Closed							
Humbug Mt. - OR/CA Border	Closed							
OR/CA Border - Humboldt S. Jetty	Closed							
Humboldt S. Jetty - Horse Mt.	Closed							
Horse Mt. - Pt. Arena	9/1-9/30	NA	NA	3,000	NA	Non-Retention		
Pt. Arena - Pigeon Pt.	8/1-8/29	2,049	17,531	None	NA	Non-Retention		
	9/1-9/30	NA	NA	None	NA	Non-Retention		
Pt. Reyes - Pt. San Pedro	10/2-6, 9-13	NA	NA	None	NA	Non-Retention		
Pigeon Pt. - Pt. Sur	5/1-6/30	1,804	10,479	None	NA	Non-Retention		
Pt. Sur - U.S./Mexico Border	5/1-6/30	379	2,081	None	NA	Non-Retention		
RECREATIONAL								
U.S./Canada Border - Cape Alava ^{f/}	6/24-9/4	10,725	7,280	7,900	92%	3,488	3,970	88%
Cape Alava-Queets River ^{f/}	6/24-9/4	1,843	479	2,500	19%	1,673	1,490	112%
Queets River - Leadbetter Pt. ^{f/}	7/1-9/4	25,983	6,601	21,400	31%	15,742	17,113	92%
Leadbetter Pt.-Cape Falcon ^{f/}	6/24-9/4	31,107	7,502	13,200	57%	21,287	22,527	94%
Cape Falcon - Humbug Mt.	3/15-10/31	17,000	1,300	None	NA	Non-Retention except for periods listed		
Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.	6/24-7/31	Included Above or Below		NA	NA	6,177	18,000	34%
Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. ^{g/}	9/2-9/30	Included Above		NA	NA	NA	7,900	NA
Humbug Mt. - OR/CA Border (OR-KMZ)	Closed							
OR/CA Border - Horse Mt. (CA-KMZ)	Closed							
Horse Mt. - Pt. Arena (Pt. Bragg)	4/1-5/31, 8/15-11/12	3,254	1,467	None	NA	Non-Retention		
Pt. Arena - Pigeon Pt. (San Francisco)	4/1-4/30, 5/15-10/31	42,949	46,173	None	NA	Non-Retention		
Pigeon Pt. - Pt. Sur (Monterey N.)	4/1-7/15	14,017	6,306	None	NA	Non-Retention		
Pt. Sur - U.S./Mexico Border (Monterey S)	4/1-5/31	810	104	None	NA	Non-Retention		

TOTALS TO DATE (through Aug. 31)	Effort			Chinook Catch			Coho Catch		
	2017	2016	2015	2017	2016	2015	2017	2016	2015
TROLL									
Treaty Indian	123	593	1,057	23,473	22,827	57,704	8,043	0	3,249
Washington Non-Indian	2,230	1,628	2,483	33,151	17,344	53,535	1,197	0	1,897
Oregon	1,615	3,955	7,720	19,673	38,884	97,732	261	0	739
California	4,232	5,363	10,769	30,091	45,028	97,437	0	0	0
Total Troll	8,200	11,539	22,029	106,388	124,083	306,408	9,501	0	5,885
RECREATIONAL									
Washington	61,112	51,437	81,330	19,972	16,907	34,224	35,645	16,059	57,169
Oregon	25,546	20,849	38,899	3,190	2,538	3,307	12,722	4,155	22,352
California	61,030	58,396	67,789	54,050	30,748	27,690	451	70	41
Total Recreational	147,688	130,682	188,018	77,212	50,193	65,221	48,818	20,284	79,562
PFMC Total	155,888	142,221	210,047	183,600	174,276	371,629	58,319	20,284	85,447

a/ Inseason estimates are preliminary.

b/ Non-Indian coho fisheries prior to Sept. are mark-selective and non-mark-selective recreational fisheries occur in Sept., (except NOF rec.) see the regulations for details.

c/ Effort is reported as landings. Chinook summer quota of 20,000 increased by adding spring quota rollover on an impact neutral basis by 16,720 fish. Total allow able catch is 40,000 Chinook for Treaty Indian fisheries in 2017.

d/ Numbers show n as Chinook quotas for non-Indian troll and rec. fisheries North of Falcon are guidelines not quotas; only the total Chinook allow able catch is a quota.

e/ NOF non-Indian troll coho quota is adjusted from preseason due to impact neutral transfer to recreational fishery. The preseason quota was 5,600 coho.

f/ NOF recreational coho quotas are adjusted from preseason due to impact neutral transfers between areas and from the NOF non-Indian troll fishery. The preseason quotas were: U.S./Canada Border to Cape Alava- 4,370 coho; Cape Alava to Queets River - 1,090 coho; Queets River to Leadbetter Point - 15,540 coho; Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon - 21,000 coho.

g/ Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. recreational coho quota for September is adjusted from preseason due to an impact neutral transfer from the recreational (mark-selective) coho quota for June-July. The preseason quota for September was 6,000 coho.



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 is met and the fishery has closed for 24 hours

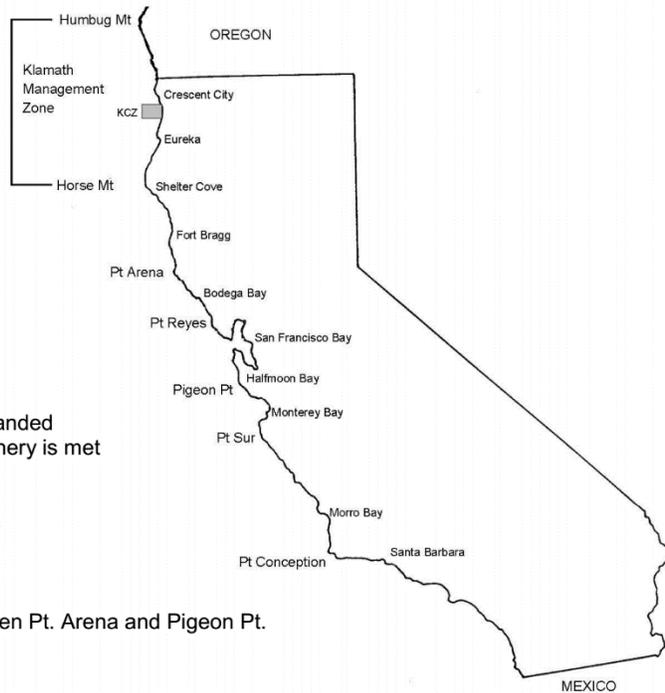
Point Reyes to Point San Pedro:

- 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. Arena and Pigeon Pt.

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):

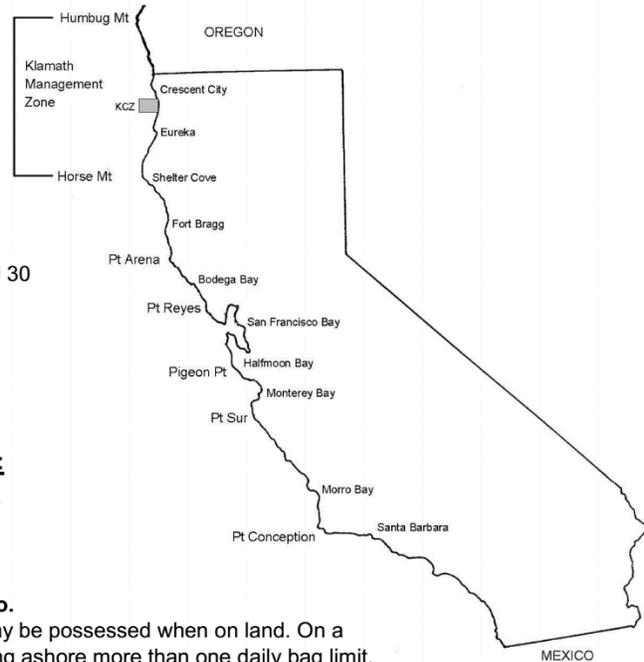
- ◆ April 1-30; May 15 – October 31
- minimum size limit: 24 inches total length through April 30
- 20 inches total length thereafter

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).

CDFW OCEAN SALMON REGULATIONS HOTLINE (707) 576-3429

California Ocean Salmon Management Process: Calendar of Events

January 16-19, 2018 - Pacific Fishery Management Council STT Work Session

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220

The Salmon Technical Team (STT) will draft the *Review of 2017 Ocean Salmon Fisheries*. This report summarizes seasons, quotas, harvest, escapement, socioeconomic statistics, achievement of management goals, and impacts on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The report is scheduled to be available online in early February 2018 at: www.pcouncil.org.

February 20-23, 2018 - Pacific Fishery Management Council STT Work Session

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220

The STT will draft *Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2018 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations* and consider any other estimation or methodology issues pertinent to the 2018 ocean salmon fisheries. Preseason Report I is scheduled to be available online in early March 2018 at: www.pcouncil.org.

March 2018 - CDFW Annual Ocean Salmon Information Meeting

Sonoma County Water Agency – 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Annual information meeting on 2017 ocean salmon seasons, Central Valley and Klamath Basin river returns, 2018 abundance projections, and opportunity for the public to provide input regarding the upcoming ocean salmon season. Exact date to be determined. Reference materials will be posted as they become available at: <http://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon/Preseason>

March 7-14, 2018 - Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

DoubleTree by Hilton Sonoma – One Doubletree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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. The STT completes *Preseason Report II: Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for 2018 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations*, available online in late March 2018 at: www.pcouncil.org.

March 2018 - Pacific Fishery Management Council Public Hearing

Location – TBD, California

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

April 4-11, 2018 - Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting

Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel – 8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220

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 11. The STT completes *Preseason Report III: Council-Adopted Management Measures and Environmental Assessment Part 3 for 2018 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations*, available online in late April at: www.pcouncil.org.

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	Hoopla Valley Tribal Fisheries PO Box 417 Hoopla, 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).

Online Resources:

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

Available online at:

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

Preseason Reports I, II, and III

- I. Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations
- II. Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations
- III. Council Adopted Management Measures and Environmental Assessment Part 3 for Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations

Available online at:

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

Klamath Basin Age Composition and Stock Projection Reports

Available online at:

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