

north and are affected insignificantly by ocean harvests from Cape Falcon, OR to the U.S.-Canada border. North of Cape Alava, WA, this is the second year there is a provision prohibiting retention of chum during August and September to protect ESA listed Hood Canal summer chum.

South of Cape Falcon, OR, the retention of coho is prohibited, except for a recreational selective fishery off Oregon with an 88,000-fish quota of marked hatchery coho. The Council's recommendations are below the 15-percent exploitation rate permitted under Amendment 13 to protect listed OCN coho stocks, with an expected 14.4-percent OCN coho exploitation rate. The expected ocean exploitation rate for Rogue/Klamath coho is 9.6 percent, and is also below its exploitation rate limit of 13 percent. Chinook fisheries are constrained primarily to meet the ESA standards for California coastal chinook and Sacramento River winter chinook. However, most areas will have an increase in opportunity to catch chinook given the high forecasts in ocean abundance for most stocks.

#### Treaty Indian Fisheries

The treaty-Indian commercial troll fishery quota is 60,000 chinook in ocean management areas and Washington State Statistical Area 4B combined, the same as in 2002. The fisheries include a chinook-directed fishery in May and June (under a quota of 30,000 chinook) and an all-salmon season beginning in July with a 30,000 chinook sub-quota. The coho quota for the treaty-Indian troll fishery in ocean management areas, including Washington State Statistical Area 4B for the July-September period is 90,000 coho, a 50-percent increase from 2002.

#### Management Measures for 2004 Fisheries

The timing of the March and April Council meetings makes it impracticable for the Council to recommend fishing seasons that begin before May 1 of the same year. Therefore, the 2004 fishing seasons opening earlier than May 1 are also established in this action. The Council recommended, and NMFS concurs, that the recreational seasons from Horse Mountain to the U.S.-Mexico Border will open off California in 2004 as indicated in the season description section. At the November 2003 meeting, the Council may consider inseason recommendations to adjust commercial and recreational seasons for all salmon except coho prior to May 1 in areas off Oregon south of Cape Falcon, OR, and in the recreational

season for all salmon except coho between Point Arena and Pigeon Point, CA. At the March 2004 meeting, the Council may consider inseason recommendations to open commercial seasons for all salmon except coho prior to May 1 in areas off California between Horse Mountain and Point Arena, CA and identify the areas, season, quota, and special regulations for any experimental April fisheries, which may be proposed at the Council's November 2003 meeting.

#### Inseason Actions

The following sections set out the management regime for the salmon fishery. Open seasons and days are described in Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the 2003 management measures. Inseason closures in the commercial and recreational fisheries are announced on the NMFS hotline and through the U.S. Coast Guard Notice to Mariners as described in section 7. Other inseason adjustments to management measures are also announced on the hotline and through the Notice to Mariners.

The following are the management measures recommended by the Council and approved and implemented here for 2003 and, as specified, for 2004.

#### *Section 1. Commercial Management Measures for 2003 Ocean Salmon Fisheries*

**Note:** This section contains restrictions in parts A, B, and C that must be followed for lawful participation in the fishery.

##### A. Season Description

North of Cape Falcon, OR

##### *U.S.-Canada Border to Cape Falcon, OR*

May 1 through earlier of June 30 or 40,000 chinook quota. The fishery will be managed to provide a remaining quota of 800 chinook for a June 26–30 open period with a 50 fish per vessel landing limit for the five-day open period. All salmon except coho (B; C.6). Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones closed (C.4). *See* gear restrictions (C.2). Vessels must land and deliver their fish within the area or in Garibaldi, OR, and within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. State regulations require that fishers south of Cape Falcon, OR intending to fish within this area, and/or fishers fishing within this area intending to land salmon in Garibaldi, OR, notify Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) before transiting the Cape Falcon, OR line (45°46'00" N. lat.) at the following phone number: (541) 867–0300 Ext. 252. Inseason actions may modify harvest guidelines in later fisheries to achieve or prevent

exceeding the overall allowable troll harvest impacts (C.7.a).

July 3 through earlier of September 14 or 24,400-preseason chinook guideline (C.7.a), or a 75,000 coho quota. Fishery is 5-days open/2-days closed. Landing limit of 75 chinook per vessel for the period July 3–7; landing limit of 150 chinook per 5-day open period for the remainder of the season. All salmon except no chum retention north of Cape Alava, WA during August and September (B; C.6). All retained coho must have a healed adipose fin clip. Cape Flattery and Columbia Control Zones closed; Grays Harbor Control Zone closed beginning August 16 (C.4). *See* gear restrictions (C.2). Vessels must land and deliver their fish within the area or in Garibaldi, OR, and within 24 hours of any closure of this fishery. State regulations require fishers south of Cape Falcon, OR intending to fish within this area, and/or fishers fishing within this area intending to land salmon in Garibaldi, OR, notify ODFW before transiting the Cape Falcon, OR line (45°46'00" N. lat.) at the following phone number: (541) 867–0300 Ext. 252. Trip limits, gear restrictions, and guidelines may be implemented or adjusted inseason.

South of Cape Falcon, OR

##### *Cape Falcon, OR to Florence South Jetty*

March 15 through July 16; August 1 through August 19 and September 1 through October 31 (C.8). All salmon except coho (C.6). Chinook 26-inch (66.0-cm) minimum size limit, except 27 inches (68.6 cm) May 1 through September 30 and 28 inches (71.1 cm) October 1 through October 31 (B). *See* gear restrictions (C.2), and Oregon state regulations for a description of the closed area at the mouth of Tillamook Bay, OR.

In 2004, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. Chinook 26-inch minimum size limit. This opening could be modified following Council review at its November 2003 meeting.

##### *Florence South Jetty to Humbug Mountain, OR*

March 15 through June 30; July 17 through July 31; August 11 through August 29; and September 1 through October 31 (C.8). All salmon except coho (C.6). Chinook 26-inch (66.0-cm) minimum size limit, except 27 inches (68.6 cm) May 1 through September 30 and 28 inches (71.1 cm) October 1 through October 31 (B). *See* gear restrictions (C.2).

In 2004, the season will open March 15 for all salmon except coho. Chinook