



Coastal Conservation Association

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March 23, 2021

Mr. Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

Chair Gorelnik,

Please accept the comments of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Oregon regarding the alternatives being considered by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) for 2021 ocean salmon fisheries along most of the Oregon coast south of Cape Falcon. We are opposed to proposals that would close the coastal recreational salmon fishery to the retention of Chinook in August while increasing the commercial sector's already large share of coastal Chinook harvests. We hope the Council will reject the two alternatives that include these inequitable proposals.

CCA has a dozen local chapters with thousands of members across Oregon and has a long track record of engagement in fisheries policy decisions at the state, regional, and national levels. Our membership is comprised of avid anglers, conservation-minded individuals, and advocates for the many benefits of recreational fishing. There is growing interest in recreational fishing off the Oregon coast, which represents a great economic development opportunity for many hard-hit coastal communities.

Over the past decade, the commercial sector has averaged over 62% of the total salmon harvested off the Oregon coast and over 86% of the Chinook harvested. Even without the proposals to close the recreational Chinook fishery during part or all of August, the commercial sector would consume 88% of the impacts to Klamath River fall Chinook, this season's limiting stock. The commercial share of the Klamath River fall Chinook impacts would increase to 93% and 98% under the two alternatives for August recreational Chinook retention closures.

It does not appear that the proposed recreational closures are intended to benefit the conservation of Klamath River fall Chinook through increased escapement, but rather to shift the limited impacts to the commercial sector. While we appreciate the importance of the commercial fishery to coastal communities, the proposals are not equitable and fail to account for the economic impact of closing the recreational fishery during the peak of the summer season.

We are very concerned about the precedent these closures would set and urge the Council to maintain the summer recreational Chinook fishery in its 2021 ocean salmon fisheries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DAVE" followed by a stylized flourish.

Dave Schamp
CCA Oregon State Chairman