



THE COUNCIL PROCESS

Presentation to the CACSST

December 4, 2025



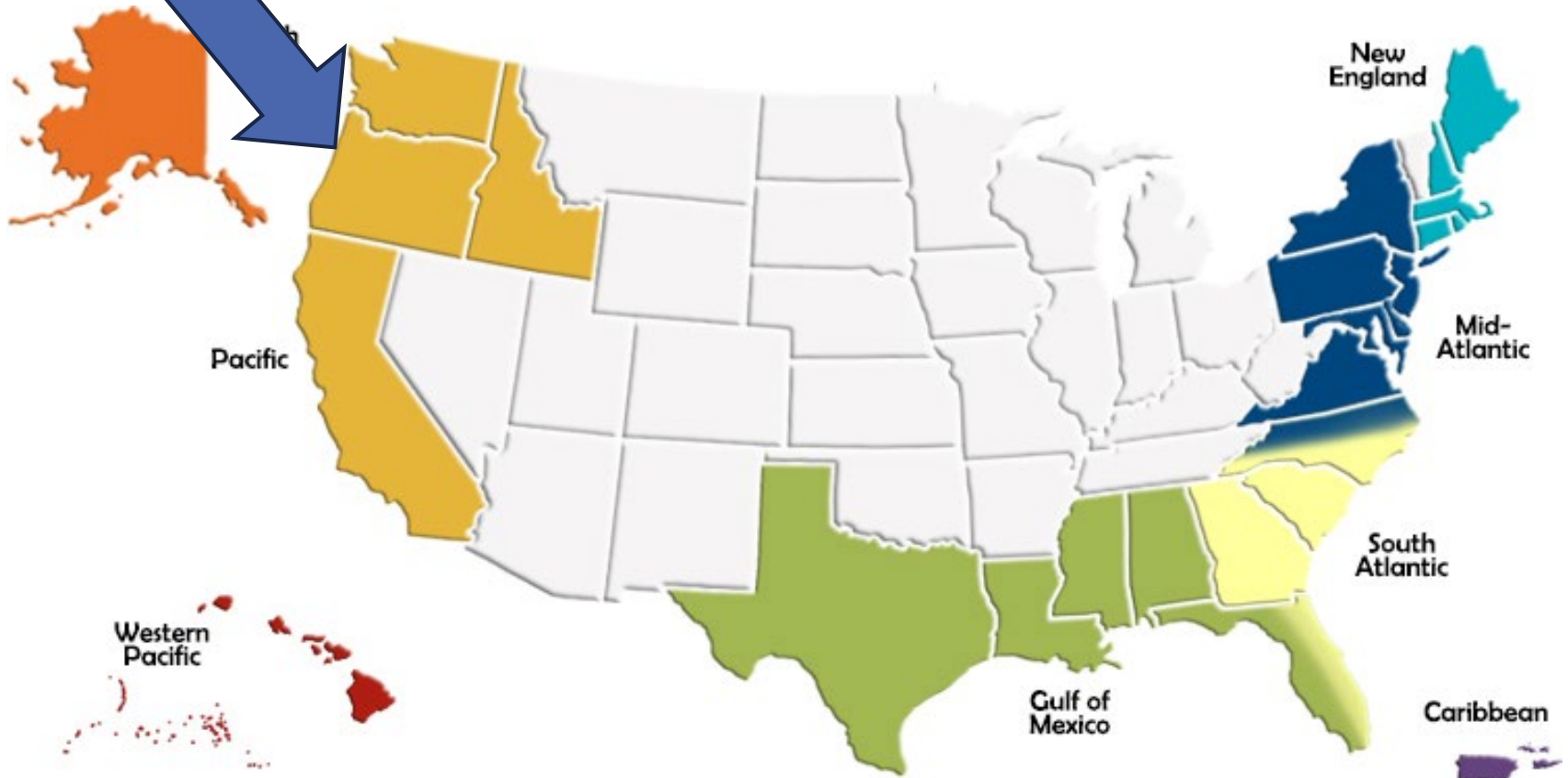
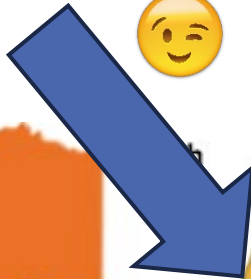
Angela Forristall

Salmon Staff Officer

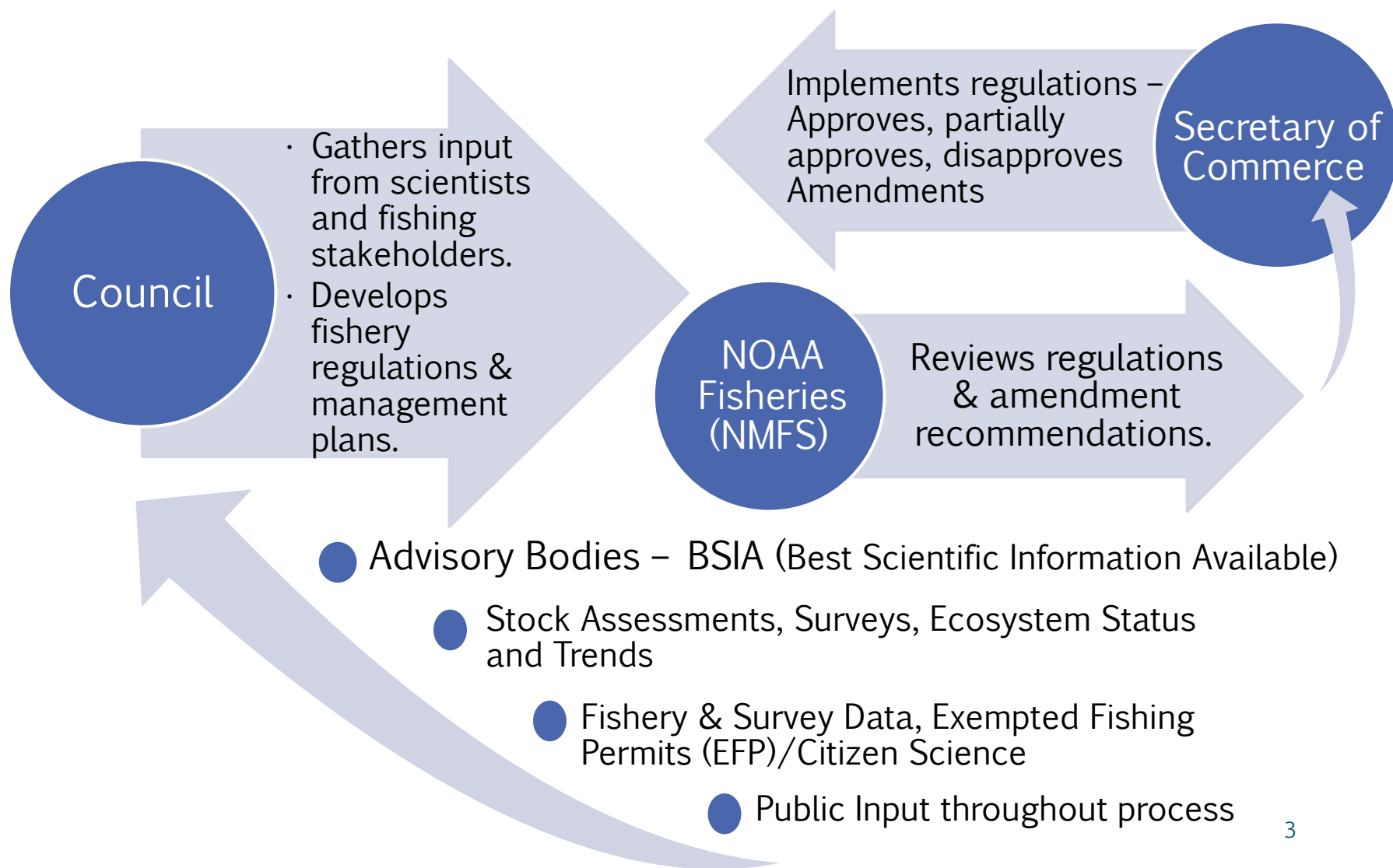
angela.forristall@pcouncil.org

COUNCIL JURISDICTION

The best Council



Federal Fisheries Regulatory Process





Pacific Fishery Management Council

Jurisdiction:

Three to 200 nautical miles off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. Includes Idaho.

Headquarters: Portland, OR

Staff: Currently 17, normally 15

Number of Voting Members: 14

Number of Non-Voting Members: 5

Fishery Management Plans: 4

Fishery Ecosystem Plans: 1

Council Members

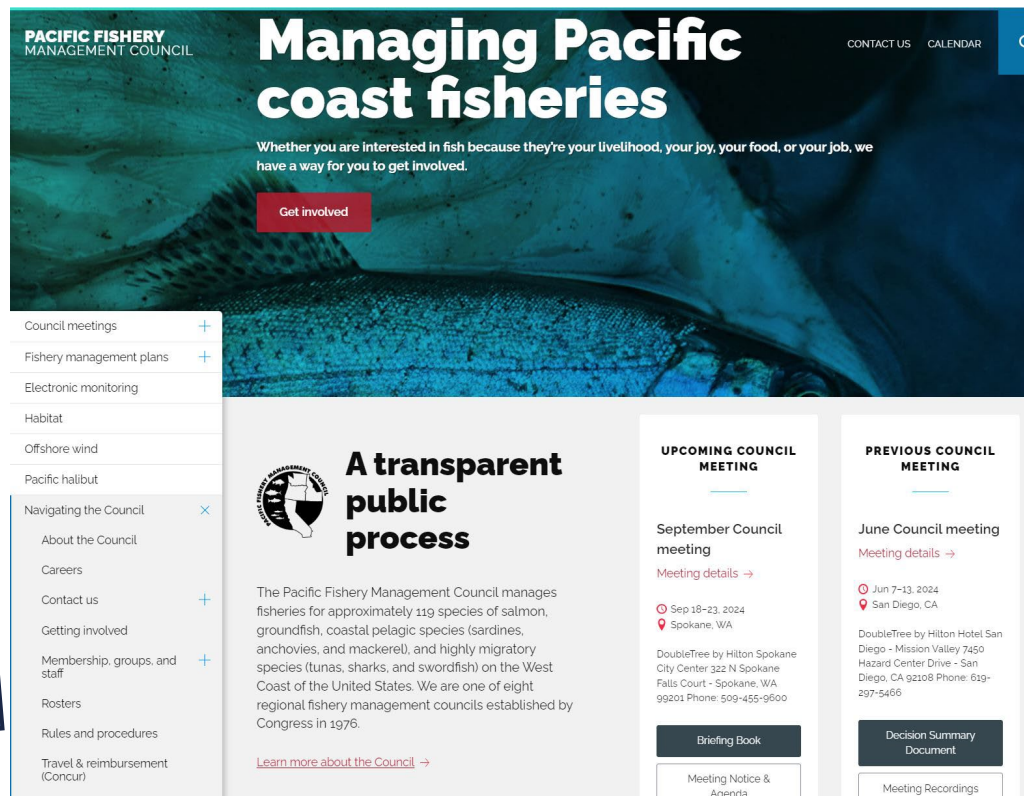
VOTING	NON-VOTING
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	U.S. Coast Guard
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game	State of Alaska
Washington Obligatory	Dept. of State
Oregon Obligatory	Obligatory and At-Large members are nominated by each state's Governor and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce.
California Obligatory	
Idaho Obligatory	
Four At-Large Members	
Tribal Representative	Members serve three-year terms (maximum 3 terms)
National Marine Fisheries Service	

Council Members

VOTING	NON-VOTING
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	U.S. Coast Guard
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game	State of Alaska
Washington Obligatory	Dept. of State
Oregon Obligatory	California Council Members: Ms. Jaime Diamond (at-large) Dr. Rebecca Lent (at-large) Ms. Corey Ridings (CA obligatory) Ms. Marci Yaremko (CDFW)
California Obligatory	
Idaho Obligatory	
Four At-Large Members	
Tribal Representative	
National Marine Fisheries Service	

Council Operating Procedures (COPs)

- All operations are governed by our COPs which can be found on our website



The screenshot shows the Pacific Fishery Management Council website. The header includes the council's name, a search bar, and links for 'CONTACT US' and 'CALENDAR'. The main banner features the title 'Managing Pacific coast fisheries' and a sub-header: 'Whether you are interested in fish because they're your livelihood, your joy, your food, or your job, we have a way for you to get involved.' A red 'Get involved' button is present. A left-hand navigation menu is open, listing various topics. A large blue arrow points from the bottom left towards the 'Rules and procedures' link in this menu. The main content area is titled 'A transparent public process' and describes the council's role in managing fisheries for 119 species. It also includes sections for 'UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING' (September 18-23, 2024, in Spokane, WA) and 'PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING' (June 7-13, 2024, in San Diego, CA), each with links to meeting details, briefing books, and recordings.

PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Managing Pacific coast fisheries

Whether you are interested in fish because they're your livelihood, your joy, your food, or your job, we have a way for you to get involved.

[Get involved](#)

- Council meetings +
- Fishery management plans +
- Electronic monitoring
- Habitat
- Offshore wind
- Pacific halibut
- Navigating the Council x
 - About the Council
 - Careers
 - Contact us +
 - Getting involved
 - Membership, groups, and staff +
 - Rosters
 - Rules and procedures
 - Travel & reimbursement (Concur)

A transparent public process

The Pacific Fishery Management Council manages fisheries for approximately 119 species of salmon, groundfish, coastal pelagic species (sardines, anchovies, and mackerel), and highly migratory species (tunas, sharks, and swordfish) on the West Coast of the United States. We are one of eight regional fishery management councils established by Congress in 1976.

[Learn more about the Council →](#)

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING

September Council meeting

[Meeting details →](#)

Sep 18-23, 2024
Spokane, WA

DoubleTree by Hilton Spokane
City Center 322 N Spokane Falls Court - Spokane, WA
99201 Phone: 509-455-9600

[Briefing Book](#)

[Meeting Notice & Agenda](#)

PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

June Council meeting

[Meeting details →](#)

Jun 7-13, 2024
San Diego, CA

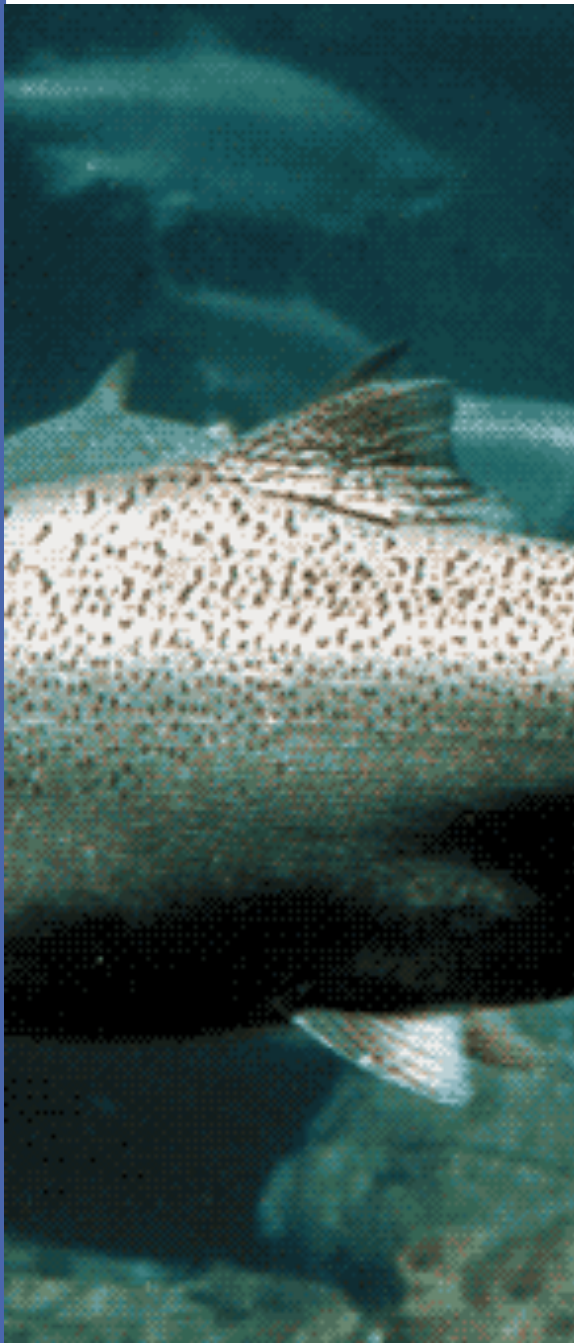
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San Diego - Mission Valley 7450 Hazard Center Drive - San Diego, CA 92108 Phone: 619-297-5466

[Decision Summary Document](#)

[Meeting Recordings](#)

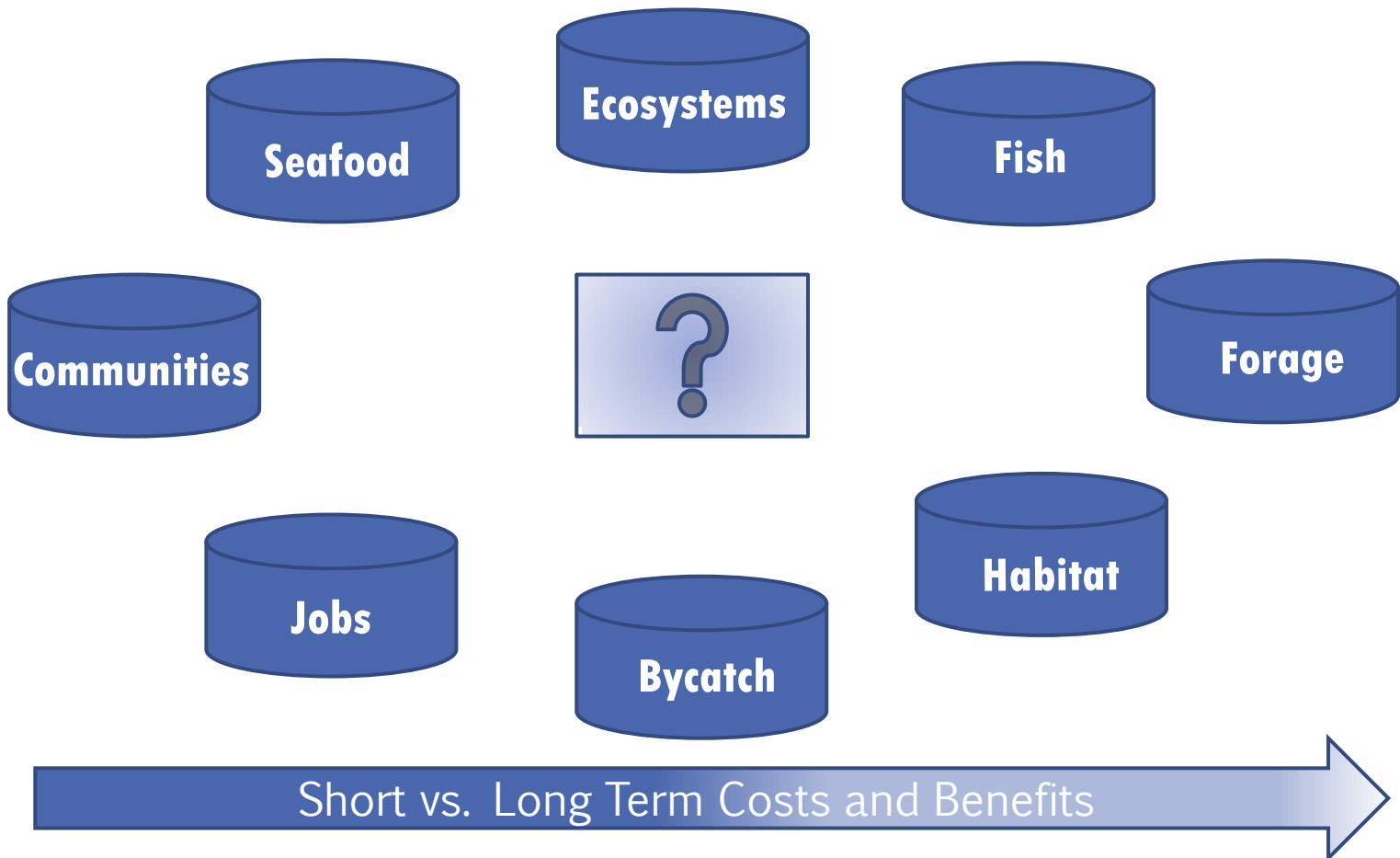
Fishery Management Plan: Salmon COP 9, Schedule 2

- Management: Chinook and coho salmon annually; pink salmon in odd-number years
- Range from Point Conception, CA up to Canada and Alaska
- Affected by non-fishing factors on land and at sea
- Management is complex! Lots of different jurisdictions
- Annual regulations set at the March and April Council meetings
- Main Advisory Bodies: Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team



Role of Council Members

Protect the public interest in fisheries by balancing interests (sometimes competing objectives) to make decisions for the greatest overall benefit to the Nation.



Advisory Subpanels

Salmon Advisory
Subpanel

Groundfish
Advisory Subpanel

Ecosystem
Advisory Subpanel

Coastal Pelagic
Species Advisory
Subpanel

Highly Migratory
Species Advisory
Subpanel

- They include recreational and commercial fishermen, fish processors, academics, environmental group representatives, etc.
- Advisory subpanel recommendations are considered by the Council
- SAS helps to develop ocean commercial, recreational, and Tribal ocean fishing season structure



Example: Salmon Advisory Subpanel

- 1 Washington Troll Fisheries
- 1 Oregon Troll Fisheries
- 1 California Troll Fisheries
- 1 Gillnet Fisheries
- 2 Processor
- 1 Washington Charter Boat Operator
- 1 Oregon Charter Boat Operator
- 1 California Charter Boat Operator
- 1 Washington Sport Fisheries
- 1 Oregon Sport Fisheries
- 1 Idaho Sport Fisheries
- 2 California Sport Fisheries
- 1 Tribal Fisheries (Washington Coast)
- 1 Tribal Representative (California)
- 1 Conservation Group



Salmon Technical Team (STT)

- Monitors fisheries, prepares stock assessments and fishery impact analyses, and provides scientific advice to inform fishery management decisions
- **Works closely with the SAS to develop potential ocean and recreational salmon fishing season structures**
- Each year, **develops four key salmon management documents** that help inform the development and analyze the impacts of ocean and recreational salmon fishing seasons



Scientific and Statistical Committee

- Each Council has an SSC
- Reviews all science to ensure the Council has the best information available for decisions (stock assessments, management measures, rebuilding targets, impact assessment models)
- Sets Overfishing Limits (OFL) and Acceptable Allowable Catches (ABC)
- The Pacific Council SSC's 19 members include stock assessment scientists, biologists, economists, oceanographers from state, tribal, and Federal agencies, universities
- Operates by consensus

Policy Mandates

Magnuson-Stevens Act;
National Standards

National Environmental Policy
Act (Alternatives, Public
Process)

Endangered Species Act

Marine Mammal Protection
Act



PFMC Salmon Fishery Management Process

January & February

STT drafts reports summarizing the previous salmon season (***Review of Ocean Salmon Fisheries***) and projections of expected salmon stock abundances for the coming season (***Preseason Report I***).

Reports are made available on the Council website.



March

At the **Council Meeting**, the SAS develops and STT analyzes three alternatives for the upcoming season.

The **Council refines and adopts** the alternatives for public review.

STT drafts Preseason Report II, which analyzes the anticipated impacts of each alternative.

Three public hearings (one in each coastal state) are held on the adopted alternatives.



April

At the **Council Meeting**, the 3 alternatives are reduced to one, which is refined by the Council with input from the SAS, STT, and public.

Council adopts ocean salmon management measures for recommendation to NMFS.

The **STT drafts Preseason Report III**, which describes the adopted measures and analyzes anticipated impacts on ocean salmon fisheries and salmon stocks.



May - October

New management measures take effect on **May 16**.

States **monitor inseason salmon catch and effort** and fish migration/returns.

Management measures may be adjusted through **inseason action** to help ensure both conservation and harvest goals are achieved.

Salmon Methodology Review meeting occurs to review current or proposed methodologies used by salmon fisheries scientists.

REVIEW OF 2024 OCEAN SALMON FISHERIES

Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Document
for the Pacific Coast Salmon Fishery Management Plan



Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384
(503) 820-2280
www.pcouncil.org

FEBRUARY 2025

January & February

STT drafts reports summarizing the previous salmon season (***Review of Ocean Salmon Fisheries***) and projections of expected salmon stock abundances for the coming season (***Preseason Report I***).

Reports are made available on the Council website.

PRESEASON REPORT I STOCK ABUNDANCE ANALYSIS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PART 1 FOR 2025 OCEAN SALMON FISHERY REGULATIONS

REGULATION IDENTIFIER NUMBER 0648-BN19



Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384
(503) 820-2280
www.pcouncil.org

MARCH 2025

TABLE 2. 2025 Recreational management Alternatives for non-Indian ocean salmon fisheries – Council adopted. (Page 6 of 11)

A. SEASON ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTIONS		
ALTERNATIVE I	ALTERNATIVE II	ALTERNATIVE III
OR/CA Border to latitude 40°10' N. (California KMZ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 5-8; • July 3-6; • July 31-August 3; • August 28-31 (C.6). <p>Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching a statewide harvest guideline of 6,500 Chinook.</p> <p>Open seven days per week. All salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 20 inches total length (B). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).</p>	OR/CA Border to latitude 40°10' N. (California KMZ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 5-8; • July 3-6; • July 31-August 3; • August 28-31 (C.6). <p>Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching a statewide harvest guideline of 7,000 Chinook.</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	OR/CA Border to latitude 40°10' N. (California KMZ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed (C.7).

Klamath
California
to the

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TABLE 2. 2025 Recreational management Alternatives for non-Indian ocean salmon fisheries – Council adopted. (Page 7 of 11)

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Point Reyes to Pigeon Point Subarea

- September 1-8; 29-30;
- October 1-5; 27-31 (C.6).

Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching a statewide harvest guideline of 7,500 Chinook, **applicable to the October open dates between Point Reyes and Point Sur.**

Open seven days per week. All salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 20 inches total length (B). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).

In 2026, season opens April 4 for all two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 24 inches total length (B); and the same gear restrictions as in 2025 (C.2, C.3). Harvest guidelines and bag limits may be considered inseason (C.5). Inseason action to close fisheries, modify season dates, or modify the bag limit may be considered when sport harvest is approaching a harvest guideline. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2026 meeting.

TABLE 2. 2025 Recreational management Alternatives for non-Indian ocean salmon fisheries – Council adopted. (Page 9 of 11)

A. SEASON ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTIONS		
ALTERNATIVE I	ALTERNATIVE II	ALTERNATIVE III
Pigeon Point to U.S./Mexico Border (Monterey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 5-8; • July 3-6; • July 31; August 1-3; • August 28-31 (C.6). <p>Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching a statewide harvest guideline of 6,500 Chinook.</p> <p>Pigeon Point to Point Sur Subarea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 1-8; 29-30 (C.6). <p>Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching a statewide harvest guideline of 7,500 Chinook, applicable to the September and October open dates between Point Reyes and Point Sur.</p> <p>Open seven days per week. All salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 20 inches total length (B). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).</p> <p>In 2026, season opens April 4 for all two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 24 inches total length (B); and the same gear restrictions as in 2025 (C.2, C.3). Harvest guidelines and bag limits may be considered inseason (C.5). Inseason action to close fisheries, modify season dates, or modify the bag limit may be considered when sport harvest is approaching a harvest guideline. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2026 meeting.</p>	Pigeon Point to U.S./Mexico Border (Monterey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 5-8; • July 3-6; • July 31; August 1-3; • August 25-31 (C.6). <p>Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching a statewide harvest guideline of 7,000 Chinook.</p> <p>Same as Alternative 1.</p>	Pigeon Point to U.S./Mexico Border (Monterey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed (C.7).

California State regulations require all salmon be made available to a CDFW representative for sampling immediately at port of landing. Any person in possession of a salmon with a missing adipose fin, upon request by an authorized agent or employee of the CDFW, shall immediately relinquish the head of the salmon to the State (California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 1.73).

March

At the **Council Meeting**, the SAS develops and STT analyzes three alternatives for the upcoming season.

The **Council refines and adopts** the alternatives for public review.

STT drafts *Preseason Report II*, which analyzes the anticipated impacts of each alternative.

Three public hearings (one in each coastal state) are held on the adopted alternatives.

In 2026, season opens April 4 for all salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 24 inches total length (B); and the same gear restrictions as in 2022 (C.2, C.3). Harvest guidelines and bag limits may be considered inseason (C.5). Inseason action to close fisheries, modify season dates, or modify the bag limit may be considered when sport harvest is approaching a harvest guideline. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2026 meeting.

TABLE 5. Projected key stock escapements (thousands of fish) or management criteria for 2025 ocean fishery management measures - Council adopted.^{a/} (Page 3 of 5)

Key Stock/Criteria	PROJECTED 2025 Criteria	Spawner Objective or Other Comparative Standard as Noted ^{b/}
CHINOOK	CHINOOK	CHINOOK
<u>CALIFORNIA:</u>		
Klamath River Fall	19.417	≥ 19.417 2025 minimum natural area adult escapement (FMP control rule).
Federally recognized tribal harvest	50.0%	50.0% Equals 1,385 adult fish for Yurok and Hoopa Valley tribal fisheries.
Exploitation (spawner reduction) rate	10.0%	≤ 10.0% FMP control rule.
Adult river mouth return	28.6	Total adults.
Age-4 ocean harvest rate	1.6%	≤ 7.7% NMFS guidance for implementing regulations addressing CCC.
KMZ sport fishery share	8.8%	
River recreational fishery share ^{g/}	70.6%	Equals 978 adult fish for recreational inriver fisheries.
Sacramento River Winter (endangered)	1.6%	≤ 20% Age-3 ocean impact rate in fisheries south of Pt. Arena. In addition, the following season restrictions apply: Recreational- Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt. between the first Saturday in April and the second Sunday in November; Pigeon Pt. to the U.S./Mexico border between the first Saturday in April and the first Sunday in October. Minimum size limit ≥ 20 inches total length. Commercial- Pt. Arena to the U.S./Mexico border between May 1 and September 30, except Pt. Reyes to Pt. San Pedro between October 1 and 15 (Monday-Friday). Minimum size limit ≥ 26 inches total length (NMFS 2025 ESA Guidance).
Sacramento River Fall	147.733	≥ 122 2025 minimum hatchery and natural area adult escapement (FMP).
Sacramento Index Exploitation Rate	10.8%	≤ 26.4% FMP control rule.
Ocean commercial impacts	6.529	Includes fall (Sept-Dec) 2024 impacts (30 SRFC).
Ocean recreational impacts	3.393	Includes fall (Sept-Dec) 2024 impacts (126 SRFC).
River recreational impacts ^{g/}	8	Council guidance

April

At the **Council Meeting**, the three alternatives are reduced to one, which is refined by the Council with input from the SAS, STT, and public.

Council adopts ocean salmon management measures for recommendation to NMFS.

The **STT drafts *Preseason Report III***, which describes the adopted measures and analyzes anticipated impacts on ocean salmon fisheries and salmon stocks.

TABLE 2. 2025 Recreational management measures for non-tribal ocean salmon fisheries – Council adopted. (Page 3 of 6)

A. SEASON DESCRIPTIONS
OR/CA Border to latitude 40°10' N. (California KMZ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 7-8; • July 5-6; • July 31-August 3; • August 25-31 (C.6). <p>Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching a statewide harvest guideline of 7,000 Chinook.</p> <p>All salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 20 inches total length (B). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).</p> <p>Klamath Control Zone closed in August (C.4.d). See California State regulations for additional closures adjacent to the Smith, Eel, and Klamath Rivers.</p> <p>In 2026, the season opens May 1 for all salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 20 inches total length (B); and the same gear restrictions as in 2025 (C.2, C.3). Harvest guidelines and bag limits may be considered inseason (C.5). Inseason action to close fisheries, modify season dates, or modify the bag limit may be considered when sport harvest is approaching a harvest guideline. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March and/or April 2026 meeting.</p>
Latitude 40°10' N. to Point Arena (Fort Bragg) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 7-8; • July 5-6; • July 31-August 3; • August 25-31 (C.6). <p>Inseason action may be taken to close open days when total harvest is approaching a statewide harvest guideline of 7,000 Chinook.</p> <p>All salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 20 inches total length (B). See gear restrictions and definitions (C.2, C.3).</p> <p>In 2026, season opens April 4 for all salmon except coho, two salmon per day (C.1). Chinook minimum size limit of 20 inches total length (B); and the same gear restrictions as in 2025 (C.2, C.3). Harvest guidelines and bag limits may be considered inseason (C.5). Inseason action to close fisheries, modify season dates, or modify the bag limit may be considered when sport harvest is approaching a harvest guideline. This opening could be modified following Council review at its March 2026 meeting.</p>

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Other Upcoming Salmon Topics:

Sacramento River Fall Chinook

- The Council is in the early stages of updating management of Sacramento River Fall Chinook
 - F_{MSY} : fishing mortality rate that results in Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)
 - S_{MSY} : adult spawners expected to, on average, produce MSY
 - If the stock falls too far below this value, is considered 'overfished'
 - Conservation Objective
 - Harvest Control Rule
- The current spawner escapement we use for management was developed in the 1980s and has been determined needs updating
- A peer review to evaluate the updated S_{MSY} value will be held I during the summer of 2026
- Subsequently, different conservation objective and harvest control rule options will be considered
- Highly interested in public input during this process.

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Federal																				
Exploitation																				
Adult run																				
Age-4 cohort																				
KMZ stocks																				
River runs																				
Sacramento																				
(endangered)																				
<p>TABLE 3-1. Conservation objectives and reference points governing harvest control rules and status determination criteria for salmon stocks and stock complexes in the Pacific Coast salmon FMP. These may change periodically. The most recent values are reported annually in Preseason Reports I and III. (Page 1 of 7)</p> <table><tr><th colspan="6">CHINOOK</th></tr><tr><th>Stocks In The Fishery</th><th>Conservation Objective</th><th>S_{MSY}</th><th>MSST</th><th>MFMT (F_{MSY})</th><th>ACL</th></tr><tr><td>Sacramento River Fall Indicator stock for the Central Valley fall (CVF) Chinook stock complex.</td><td>122,000-180,000 natural and hatchery adult spawners (MSY proxy adopted 1984). This objective is intended to provide adequate escapement of natural and hatchery production for Sacramento and San Joaquin fall and late-fall stocks based on habitat conditions and average run-sizes as follows: Sacramento River 1953-1960; San Joaquin River 1972-1977 (ASETF 1979; PFMC 1984; SRFCRT 1994). The objective is less than the estimated basin capacity of 240,000 spawners (Hallock 1977), but greater than the 118,000 spawners for maximum production estimated on a basin by basin basis before Oroville and Nimbus Dams (Reisenbichler 1986).</td><td>122,000</td><td>91,500</td><td>78% Proxy (SAC 2011a)</td><td>Based on F_{ABC} and annual ocean abundance. F_{ABC} is F_{MSY} reduced by Tier 2 (10%) uncertainty</td></tr></table>			CHINOOK						Stocks In The Fishery	Conservation Objective	S _{MSY}	MSST	MFMT (F _{MSY})	ACL	Sacramento River Fall Indicator stock for the Central Valley fall (CVF) Chinook stock complex.	122,000-180,000 natural and hatchery adult spawners (MSY proxy adopted 1984). This objective is intended to provide adequate escapement of natural and hatchery production for Sacramento and San Joaquin fall and late-fall stocks based on habitat conditions and average run-sizes as follows: Sacramento River 1953-1960; San Joaquin River 1972-1977 (ASETF 1979; PFMC 1984; SRFCRT 1994). The objective is less than the estimated basin capacity of 240,000 spawners (Hallock 1977), but greater than the 118,000 spawners for maximum production estimated on a basin by basin basis before Oroville and Nimbus Dams (Reisenbichler 1986).	122,000	91,500	78% Proxy (SAC 2011a)	Based on F _{ABC} and annual ocean abundance. F _{ABC} is F _{MSY} reduced by Tier 2 (10%) uncertainty
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					border between the first Saturday in April and the first Sunday in October. Minimum size limit ≥ 20 inches total length. Commercial- Pt. Arena to the U.S./Mexico border between May 1 and September 30, except Pt. Reyes to Pt. San Pedro between October 1 and 15 (Monday-Friday). Minimum size limit ≥ 26 inches total length (NMFS 2025 ESA Guidance).															
Sacramento River Fall	147.733	≥ 122	2025 minimum hatchery and natural area adult escapement (FMP).																	
Sacramento Index Exploitation Rate	18.8%	≤ 20.4%	FMP control rule.																	
Ocean commercial impacts	6.529	Includes fall (Sept-Dec) 2024 impacts (30 SRFC).																		
Ocean recreational impacts	3.393	Includes fall (Sept-Dec) 2024 impacts (126 SRFC).																		
River recreational impacts ^{g/}	8	Council guidance																		

Important Upcoming Dates

- **March 4-9:** March Council Meeting in Sacramento, CA
 - Initial 3 alternatives for 2026 ocean salmon fisheries
 - SAS meetings open to the public (in person only)
 - Public can provide written and verbal testimony, either in person or online
- **March 23, 7-9 PM:** Public Hearing in Santa Rosa, CA
- **April 7-13:** April Council Meeting in Portland, OR
 - Final recommendation for 2026 ocean salmon fisheries
 - Discussion on Sacramento River fall Chinook S_{MSY} peer review and project group
 - Public can attend SAS meetings and provide written or verbal comment
- **Summer 2026 TBD:** Peer review on
Sacramento River Fall Chinook S_{MSY}



QUESTIONS?