The West Coast Salmon Fishery

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The **Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**, commonly referred to as the **Magnuson–Stevens Act (MSA)**, is the primary law governing marine U.S. coastal fisheries. Enacted in 1976, it has since been amended in line with sustainability policy.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, 8 regional fishery management councils develop fishery management plans specific to their regions, fisheries, and fish stocks.
Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

The PFMC is 1 of the 8 regional management councils, and has jurisdiction over the 317,690 square mile exclusive economic zone off Washington, Oregon and California.
PFMC Salmon season development

Annually the members of the PFMC work to develop salmon management measures to recommend to the Secretary of Commerce.

- This is done through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- For PFMC, management measures are implemented by NMFS West Coast Regional offices and enforced by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, the 11th and 13th Coast Guard Districts, and local enforcement agencies.
Pacific salmon migrate through a broad geographic range that includes rivers, streams, and coastal waters in both the United States and Canada.

- Recall 1976 MSA enacted

- 1985 Pacific salmon treaty developed
  Helped ensure the respective federal governments were working with First Nations, Indian Tribes, provinces, states, and sport and commercial fishing groups to provide for shared conservation and harvest objectives.
PFMC Salmon season development

Federal Court Decisions have also played key roles in defining how salmon seasons are set relative to tribal fishing rights.

- 1942 Seminole Nation v. United States
  - obligation under which the United States “has charged itself with moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust” toward Indian tribes

- 1968 United States v. Oregon judgement
  - Case pertaining to treaty tribal fisheries in the Columbia River and stocks originating from therein

  - Case pertaining to treaty tribal fisheries in Puget Sound and the Washington Coast and stocks originating from therein

- 1995 Parravano v. Secretary of Commerce Brown and Secretary of Interior Babbitt
  - Case pertaining to treaty tribal fisheries in the Klamath River and stocks originating from therein
PFMC Salmon season development

November - December:
- Forecast each stock

December - February:
- Determine harvestable numbers
- Set fishery season structures (management measures)

March:
- Report catch, monitor escapement, & reconstruct the prior year’s abundance

May - October:
- Monitor catch and effort in-season

Adjust Fishery as need

West Coast Region
PFMC Salmon season development

- PFMC technical committees (Salmon Technical Team [STT], Science and Statistical Committee [SSC]) collaborate to reach consensus on scientific data, methods, and approaches appropriate for recommending to the Council for management.
  - Membership mirrors the Council participating agencies
- PFMC technical committees coordinate with other committees from the other management fora
  - e.g., the *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee or Pacific Salmon Commission Chinook Technical Committee
- PFMC advisory subpanels containing fishery and conservation advocates provide the Council with additional input during the development process
- Public input via in-person, electronic, and paper comments are also considered
PFMC Salmon season development

The STT uses multiple models to determine stock specific exploitation rates of different fisheries derived from recoveries of code-wire tags compared to a base period.

- Chinook Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) for Chinook stocks northwards of the mid-Oregon coast
- Coho FRAM for coho stocks coastwide
- The Klamath Ocean Harvest Model (KOHM) for Klamath River fall Chinook
- The Sacramento Harvest Model (SHM) for Sacrament River fall Chinook
- The Winter Run Harvest Model (WRHM) for Sacramento River winter run Chinook

Commonalities among models:

- Have different levels of stock, fishery, area, and time strata depending on salmon fishery management need.
- Local-area total abundance not available; “catch” is an index
PFMC Salmon season development

Before the Council submits its recommendation for NMFS’ adoption of annual management measures, fishery model outputs are assessed for compliance with the fishery management plan and NFMS annual guidance letter, which may specify Endangered Species Act guidance in addition to fishery management plan rules.
Questions?

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