

From: "Eric Schindler" <Eric.D.Schindler@state.or.us>
Subject: Action Notice: Ocean Salmon Seasons
Date: March 12, 2008 11:59:13 AM PDT
To: "Eric Schindler" <Eric.D.Schindler@state.or.us>

3/12/2008 ACTION NOTICE: The National Marine Fisheries Service in consultation with the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the State of Oregon, and fishery interests has taken in-season management action to cancel the March 15 openings in the ocean Chinook salmon seasons off Oregon.

ACTION TAKEN (#1): The commercial ocean troll salmon fishery for all species except coho between Cape Falcon, Oregon and the Oregon/California Border that was scheduled to open for the period of March 15 through April 30 has been closed by in-season management action by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

ACTION TAKEN (#2): The recreational ocean salmon fishery for all species except coho between Cape Falcon, Oregon and Humbug Mt., Oregon that was scheduled to open for the period of March 15 through April 30 has been closed by in-season management action by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

RATIONALE: Chinook salmon forecasts for numerous runs that contribute to ocean salmon fisheries off Oregon are estimated to be at very low levels. Specific concerns over critically low numbers of fall Chinook within the Sacramento River, and a very low forecast for Klamath River three year old Chinook are at the head of the list of issues facing salmon managers this year. This closure will allow fishery managers to better develop a full range of fishing options for the 2008 ocean salmon seasons. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Pacific Fishery Management Council are still considering options for fishing opportunity within this area that could start as early as April 15. A decision on any April seasons will be made at the Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Tacoma, Washington during the week of April 7-11.

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**Eric Schindler, Supervising Biologist**  
**Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife**  
**Marine Resources Program**  
**2040 SE Marine Science Dr.**  
**Newport, OR 97365**  
**(541)867-0300 x252**  
**e-mail: [eric.d.schindler@state.or.us](mailto:eric.d.schindler@state.or.us)**  
**FAX: (541)867-0311**

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