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KLAMATH RIVER BASIN CHINOOK SALMON SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

Updates for 2025



PRESENTATION TO THE CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

April 16, 2025 | Colby Hause

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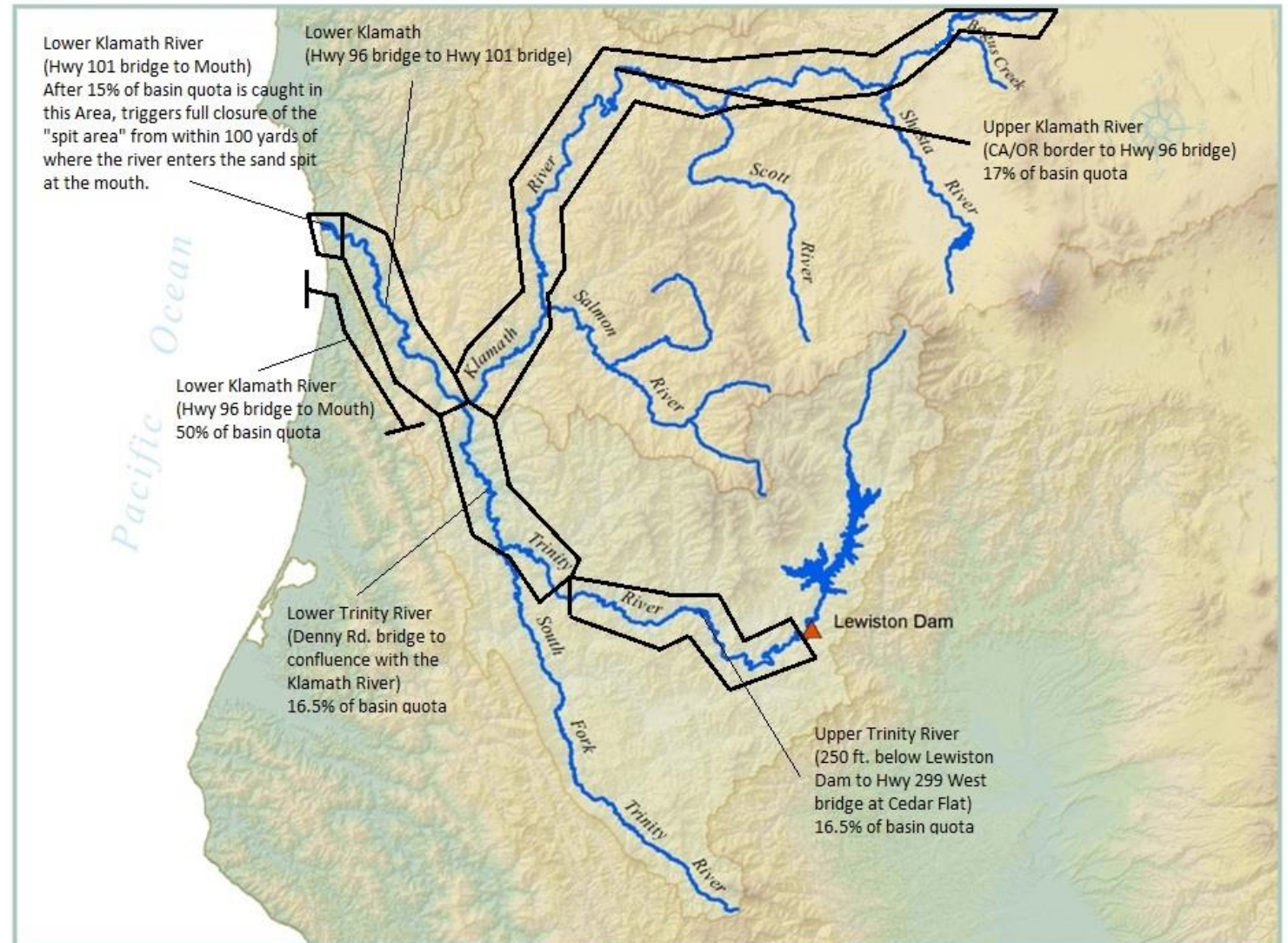
Presentation Overview

- Management of Klamath River Fall Chinook Salmon (KRFC) and Klamath River Basin sub-quota areas
- 2024 Klamath River Basin KRFC sport fishing regulations
- 2025 Regulatory options
- 2025 Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) and CDFW Recommendations
- Justification of CDFW Recommendations
- Timeline



KRFC Management and Fishing Sub-Quota Areas

- Annual harvest allocations and escapement goals established by Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)
- The PFMC makes an annual recommendation for the KRFC recreational fishery allocation in April
- CDFW makes annual recommendations for season, bag, and possession limits based on status of stock and/or quota



2024 Chinook Salmon Sport Fishing Regulations



Photo credit: CDFW

- The Klamath River Basin was closed to the take and possession of KRFC for the 2024 season



2025 Proposed Regulatory Options

Downstream of Iron Gate

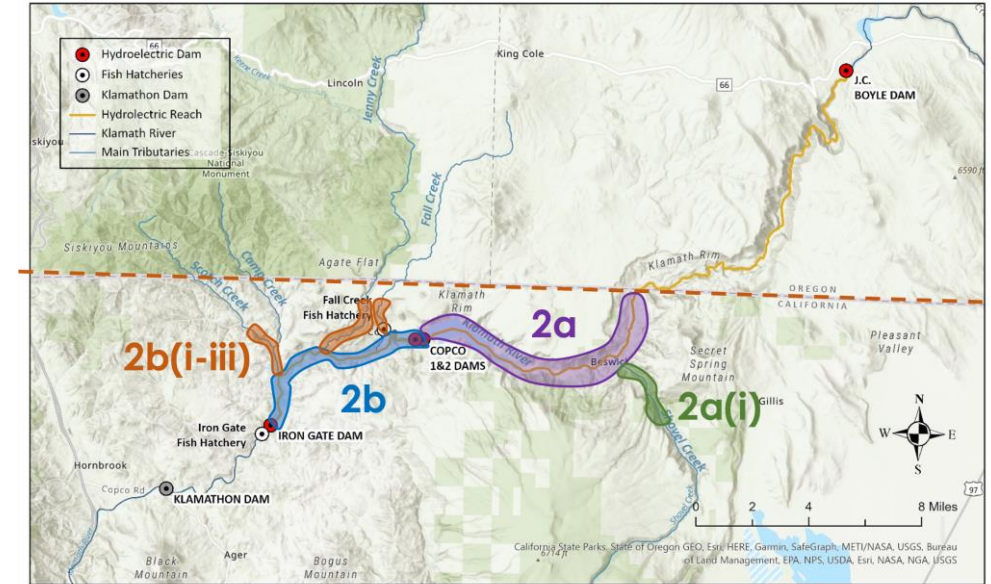
1. Klamath River Basin quota range: 0-67,600 fish > 20-24 inches
 - Bag limit range: 0-4 fish > 20-24 inches
 - Possession limit range: 0-12 fish > 20-24 inches
2. Grilse/Adult size cutoff range: 20-24 inches
 - **2025 proposed cutoff is 21 inches total length**
3. Seasons
 - August 15 – December 31 (Klamath River)
 - September 1 – December 31 (Trinity River)
4. Closed to the take and possession of KRFC



Proposals discussed at the February 12th Notice Hearing

1. Anadromous waters above Iron Gate Dam
 - CA-OR state line to Lakeview Road Bridge near Iron Gate [7.40(b)(50)(2a-b)]
 - **2a: Closed to take and possession of Chinook Salmon**
 - **2a(i), 2b, and 2b(i-iii): Closed to fishing all year**

Note: These sections will continue to be evaluated on an annual basis



2. Move Klamath River Spring Chinook (**KRSC**) regulations under the Klamath River Sportfish Package to be evaluated on an annual basis
 - Incorporate a range of bag and possession limits across all sections of the Klamath and Trinity Rivers where take of KRSC is permitted
 - Option 1: 0-1 bag limit; 0-2 possession limit
 - Option 2: Closed to take and possession of KRSC



PFMC 2025 Fishery Recommendations

April 15: PFMC adopted the following measures:

1. Complete closure commercial ocean salmon fisheries off the California Coast
2. Ocean recreational salmon fisheries:
 - OR/CA border to US/Mexico Border: June 7-8, July 5-6, July 31-August 3, August 25-31
 - *In season action may be taken when harvest approaches statewide guideline of 7,000*
 - Point Reyes to Pigeon Point: September 4-7, 29-30 and October 1-5, 27-31
 - Pigeon Point to Point Sur subarea: September 4-7, 29-30
 - *In season action may be taken when harvest approaches statewide guideline of 7,500*
 - *Note: Fall fishery does not count toward 2025 impacts*
3. Klamath River Bin recreational fishery allocation: **978** adult KRFC

Note: Federal regulatory process requires all non-tribal harvest not utilized in ocean fisheries be allocated to the freshwater sport fishery to maximize tribal access to their full share of the harvestable surplus.



CDFW 2025 KRFC and KRSC Recommendations

- CDFW recommends full closure of the 2025 KRFC and KRSC in-river recreational fishery
 - KRSC:
 - Klamath and Trinity rivers July 1 through August 31
 - KRFC:
 - Klamath and Trinity rivers August 15 through December 31
 - Allocate the sport fishery quota to spawner escapement
 - Includes closure to fishing for adults *and* grilse in-river

Note: These recommendations do not apply to federally managed tribal fisheries



Justification for 2025 KRFC Recommendations

KRFC stock status necessitates a conservative management approach

- Eighth consecutive year of overfished status
 - Three-year geometric mean of spawners = 27,947 (2022-2024), below the minimum stock size threshold (MSST) of 30,525
- 2025 Ocean abundance forecast (without fishing): 82,700
 - 22,100 and 98,000 fewer adults than forecasted in 2023 and 2024 (respectively), which resulted in KRFC fishery closures
- 2025 Natural area escapement forecast (without fishing): ~21,600
 - Well below the minimum conservation objective of 40,700 natural area adults
 - Projected harvest (Tribal, OR ocean fisheries, CA ocean recreational fisheries, in-river sport fishery) will put the projection further below the conservation objective: ~19,400
 - Escapement projection with Klamath River sport fishery closure: ~20,400
- Decline in KRFC stock productivity over the last 17 brood years



Justification for 2025 KRFC Recommendations (cont.)

Environmental factors

- Consecutive years of drought
- Freshwater stressors
- Habitat compression and impact to forage assemblages in the ocean

Lower Klamath Dam Removals

- Completed in 2024, providing access to hundreds of miles of additional habitat
- Need to increase returns throughout the basin to support repopulation of newly available habitat and sustainable harvest in fisheries
 - $\geq 40,700$ natural area adults is not a sufficient conservation objective post-dam removal



Justification for 2025 KRSC Recommendations

- While the KRSC stocks are not directly managed or allocated by PFMCI, KRSC overlap in ocean distribution with KRFC and share similar marine and freshwater habitat challenges
 - Drought, in-river stressors, ocean conditions
- KRFC stocks in decline, resulting in conservative measures for 2025
- KRSC are CESA-listed, further necessitating a conservative management approach



Timeline

- February 12, 2025 – Notice hearing
- April 16, 2025 – Discussion hearing
- May 14, 2025 – Adoption hearing (teleconference)
- New regulations go into effect:
 - July 1, 2025 – KRSC
 - August 15, 2025 – KRFC



Photo credit: CDFW

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