

## Staff Summary for October 8-9, 2025

**23C. Department Marine Region****Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Receive updates on items of note since the previous Commission meeting.

- I. *Fall ocean salmon fishery*: Action taken by the Department to close the fall recreational salmon fishery after the harvest guideline was met in early September.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)****Background**

The Department's Marine Region is expected to provide verbal updates, including actions taken by the Department director related to the fall ocean salmon fishery.

***Fall Ocean Salmon Fishery***

This year has marked a new approach to managing California's recreational ocean salmon fishery. The use of harvest guidelines and in-season management were developed as part of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's pre-season process using catch and effort information from prior years along with expected performance this year. The guidelines serve to ensure that impacts from the fishery to stocks of particular concern - Klamath River fall Chinook and Central Valley Spring and Sacramento River Winter Chinook - are minimized. In-season monitoring to actively manage commercial and recreational ocean salmon fisheries to align with pre-season harvest forecasts is also identified as a priority action item in the [California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter Drier Future](#).

The two-day summer season in June was very successful, with an estimated 9,165 Chinook salmon taken statewide by 10,505 anglers aboard both charter vessels and private skiffs, achieving the summer fishery harvest guideline of 7,000 Chinook. The recreational salmon season closed for the remainder of summer but re-opened for the fall season September 4-7. The Department estimates that 12,000 Chinook salmon were taken by 12,400 anglers in the brief fall season between Pt. Reyes and Pt. Sur. The National Marine Fisheries Service took in-season action on September 17 to close the remaining 2025 fall dates in September and October. (Exhibit 1)

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [Department news release: Fall ocean salmon fishery meets the 7,500 Chinook fall harvest guideline and is set to close for remaining 2025 dates, dated September 17, 2025](#)

**Motion (N/A)**



## Fall ocean salmon fishery meets the 7,500 Chinook fall harvest guideline and is set to close for remaining 2025 dates

*September 17, 2025*



Capitalizing on good weather and even better fishing, the 7,500 Chinook fall harvest guideline was reached during the Sept. 4-7 recreational ocean salmon fishery. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) estimates that 12,000 Chinook salmon were taken by 12,400 anglers in the brief fall season between Pt. Reyes and Pt. Sur. The National Marine Fisheries Service took in-season action on Sept. 17 to close the remaining 2025 fall dates of Sept 29-30, October 1-5, and October 27-31.

The use of harvest guidelines and in-season management in California's ocean salmon sport fishery management is new this year. The guidelines were developed as part of the

Pacific Fishery Management Council's pre-season process using catch and effort information from prior years along with expected performance this year. The guidelines serve to ensure that impacts from the fishery to stocks of particular concern - Klamath River fall Chinook and Central Valley Spring and Sacramento River Winter Chinook - are minimized. In-season monitoring to actively manage commercial and recreational ocean salmon fisheries to align with pre-season harvest forecasts is also identified as a priority action item in the [California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter Drier Future](#).

During the Sept. 4-7 fall season, docks and launch ramps were bustling with activity as many anglers were eager to get back out on the water and fish for salmon after a spectacular 2-day summer season in June. CDFW met boat captains and anglers on the docks to collect fishery and biological data used to create catch estimates, abundance forecasts, and stock-specific information on the catch. CDFW continues to appreciate the cooperation of anglers during these surveys.

For more information on ocean salmon fishing regulations, please visit CDFW's website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon> or call the Ocean Salmon Hotline at 707-576-3429.

For information on the preseason management process and how to get involved, visit CDFW's preseason page at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/Salmon/Preseason>.

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[recreational ocean salmon fishery](#) [Pacific Fishery Management Council](#)

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