

Eureka Public Meeting Notes - Salmon Informational Meeting on Klamath Salmon Fishery and regulation options. March 3, 2014 Eureka, CA.

Approx. 35 public members attended the meeting, including a County Supervisor from both Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. Four CDFW ES personnel were in attendance, 5-6 LED personnel and 1 CDFW OCEO. Also in attendance were Executive Director of the Fish and Game commission and one Commissioner, Jacque Hostler-Carmesin. Three presentations lasting 90 minutes were given and public testimony taken. Season options were presented in the last segment of the meeting.

Four options for seasons on the Klamath were reviewed (including the no action alternative or status quo). Key public input as follows:

Input from public:

1. "No catch and release" due to conservation concerns of loss of fish to sea lions and requested a no fishing zone around Blue Creek (similar to Salmon River and Scott River) for a thermal refugia area for salmon (Dave Hillemeier head of Yurok tribal fisheries dept.)
2. One fishing guide requested all fishing on spit be stopped. He saw it as all snagging- John Klar
3. One bank fisherman with his 4-6 yr. old daughter present requested bank angling be preserved since it was a family history issue with him and he could not afford a boat. Salmon was also an important part of his annual diet.
4. One RV park owner at the mouth of the Klamath said that 95% of the campers visiting each year were bank and spit anglers and to close it off would deeply affect his and other merchant's income. Aaron Funt -Kamp Klamath
5. A Del Norte County Commissioner requested a meeting in Crescent City since closure would affect his community economic base. Roger Gitlin
6. One guide recommended a joint committee approach to reworking the fishing regulations- Alan Borges
7. One angler implored that DFW not to "Throw the baby out with the bathwater", in regards to the snagging issue at the spit, and to start process now to craft 2015 regulations. Ed Duggan
8. Harry Morse was stopped after the meeting by anglers who asked, why we did not make it clear that the meeting was to present four fishing options. They said if they knew we were going to present options and that the Dept. had a preferred alternative they would have gotten their buddies to come.
9. Another guide asked us to create a bag limit that does not encourage catch and release especially at mouth.
10. Several Yurok Tribal members – closure would punish everyone (businesses too). Recommend current option but address the catch and releases at the mouth.
11. Someone brought up the use of didson units to get a total count.
12. Eric Wiseman handed out data about the methodology used to determine the natural spawner escapement in the Trinity River.
13. Kenny Priest (guide, reporter, die hard angler) it's the type of fishing (snagging) at the mouth that upsets everyone.
14. The Department informed the audience that have engaged in discussions internally regarding catch and release fishing options/regulations in the spit area and that due to Commission regulation process timelines, OAL timelines, regulation book printing timelines and need for further discussion that the Department was not recommending adding any modifications to the options presented for the 2014 season. The Department noted that they will continue evaluating this issue for consideration in the 2015 reg cycle. Dave Hillemeier (Yurok Tribe) stated he interpreted conversation with commissioners at the prior Fish and Game Commission meeting that this could be written into this year's reg cycle.
15. The Department informed the audience that no decisions would be made today and that "official comments" on current reg options need to be sent directly to the Fish and Game Commission. Contact info for the Fish and Game Commission was provided on the agenda.

16. Received input after the meeting from Roger Gitlin (Del Norte County Supervisor) that he had contacted 12-15 constituents in Crescent City area and the majority supported status quo or option 1.