State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Memorandum

Date: October 20, 2014

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Agenda Items for the December 3, 2014 Fish and Game Commission Meeting Re: Request for Notice Authorization to Amend Salmon Fishing Regulations for 2015 (two ISORs; one to amend subsection 27.80(c), and sections 1.73, and 27.75; the second to amend subsection 27.80(d)).**

Attached for the Fish and Game Commission's (Commission) December 3, 2014 meeting are two rulemaking proposals for the 2015 Ocean Salmon fishing season. The first package proposes to amend subsection 27.80 (c) to establish open fishing days, bag limits and minimum size restrictions for April 2015. It also amends two other sections to improve recreational salmon fisheries. Section 1.73 is amended to ensure the recovery of coded-wire tags from recreationally caught salmon and Section 27.75 is amended to include latitude and longitude coordinates to improve clarity and enforceability of existing river mouth closures of the Smith, Klamath and Eel rivers to ocean salmon fishing. The second package proposes to amend subsection 27.80 (d) to establish open fishing days, bag limits and minimum size restrictions for the salmon season in effect on or after May 1, 2015.

Existing Title 14 regulations specify ocean salmon recreational fishing regulations that were valid only for the 2014 season. The proposed amendments to Section 27.80 (c) contained in the first ISOR would allow the Commission to adopt regulations at its March Commission meeting that would establish any ocean salmon recreational fishing regulations for the month of April 2015, in conformance with federal rules. Action under the first ISOR would allow the Commission to consider an amendment to Section 1.73, ensuring the recovery of coded-wire tagged salmon heads from recreationally caught salmon, and an amendment to Section 27.75, which would establish specific latitude and longitude coordinates to define the areas closed around north coast river mouths to ocean salmon fishing.

The proposed amendments to Section 27.80 (d) contained in the second ISOR would allow the Commission to adopt regulations at its April Commission meeting that would establish any ocean salmon recreational fishing regulations on or after May 1, 2015, in conformance with federal rules that will be recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council on April 16, 2015. The range of alternatives contained in the second ISOR are the same as those contained in the first ISOR (open fishing days/times, areas, size limits), but the resulting regulations apply only for May 1, 2015 through the end of the year.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) requests the Commission authorize publication of notice of its intent to amend the above referenced subsections of Section 27.80, Title 14, CCR, Section 1.73, Title 14, CCR, and Section 27.75, Title 14, CCR, to establish ocean salmon recreational fishing regulations for the 2015 fishing season, to ensure the recovery of coded-wire tags from recreationally caught salmon, and to improve clarity on river mouth closures to ocean salmon fishing. While the proposed-rulemakings are related, they should be noticed separately to conform to timelines driven by the federal regulatory process.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Craig Shuman, Region Manager of the Marine Region, at (805) 568-1246 or at Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov.

Attachments

ec: Craig Shuman, Manager
Marine Region (Region 7)
Craig.Shuman@wildlife.ca.gov

Bob Farrell, Assistant Chief
Northern Enforcement Division
Bob.Farrell@wildlife.ca.gov

Stafford Lehr, Chief
Fisheries Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Stafford.Lehr@wildlife.ca.gov

Marci Yaremko, Program Manager
Marine Region (Region 7)
Marci.Yaremko@wildlife.ca.gov

Kevin Shaffer, Program Manager
Fisheries Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Kevin.Shaffer@wildlife.ca.gov

Melodie Palmer-Zwahlen, Senior Environmental Scientist
Marine Region (Region 7)
Melodie.Palmer@wildlife.ca.gov

Barry Miller, Environmental Scientist
Marine Region (Region 7)
Barry.Miller@wildlife.ca.gov

Scott Barrow, Senior Environmental Scientist
Regulations Unit
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Scott.Barrow@wildlife.ca.gov