



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)
7700 NE Ambassador Pl. #101
Portland, OR 97220
RE: Restoring the California Salmon Season for 2025

February 11, 2025

Dear Council Members, Salmon Technical Team and Salmon Advisory Subpanel,

Salmon and ocean salmon fishing are incredibly important to Mendocino County. Our residents, businesses and visitors have been significantly impacted by the 2 years of closures to salmon fishing. The Commissioners and Staff of the Noyo Harbor District have written to you, and this letter is intended to support their efforts, our Commercial and Recreational fishing fleets, local governments, and our community.

The Noyo Harbor District (Fort Bragg, CA), and their facilities stand as the first line of support services to the local commercial and recreational fishing fleets. As a designated fishing village, the harbor is the hub of fishing activity, support services and area of safe refuge for mariners between Eureka and Bodega Bay.

After the extreme regulatory changes that occurred to our California Salmon and Nearshore Rockfish fisheries in 2023, and a consecutive year of full closure to the Ocean Salmon season in 2024, the impacts placed on our harbor, our commercial and recreational fishing fleets, and our local economy have become grave in nature.

The City of Fort Bragg and coastal Mendocino County rely on tourism and fishing to sustain our local economy. Two consecutive years with no Salmon season presented additional stress to our already fragile local economy and resulted in the loss of hundreds of jobs. The severe, negative impacts to our commercial salmon fleet, as well as to our Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel fleet has seen many of our operators losing between 70% and 100% of their business.

As a community whose economy relies on tourism and fishing, the continued closure of our commercial and recreational Salmon fishery is devastating. Here in the harbor, we experienced significant declines in revenues from our permanent and seasonal slip occupancy, as well as launch ramp fees. The businesses in adjacent communities, as well as those within our harbor experienced the cancellation of reservations for hotels, vacation rentals, and campsites. Fishing and marine equipment stores experienced reduced sales, as well as area restaurants.

We understand that the setting of seasons is a multi-step process with many agencies involved. We, along with many other coastal communities rely on you and the other agencies to establish seasons

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using the best available science. As you move closer to deciding on options for the 2025 salmon seasons, please consider the following:

- The California ocean Salmon fisheries constitute valuable and renewable natural resources. These fishery resources contribute to the food supply, economy, and health of the Nation and provide recreational opportunities.
- The collection of reliable data is essential to the effective conservation, management, and scientific understanding of the fishery resources of the United States. It is impossible to accurately determine actual ocean abundance, however reports of incidental salmon encounters by commercial and recreational anglers targeting other species is higher than it has ever been.
- Escapement goals were reached and exceeded in 2023 for SRFC and KRFC and alternatives that would have allowed ocean salmon fishing in 2024 were presented.
- That egg collections for the 2024 SRFC have met their production goals.
- That another year without ocean salmon fishing further erodes the cultural and economic significance that salmon, and salmon fishing have to California, the west coast, it's people.

In closing, the Noyo Harbor District SUPPORTS a return to California ocean salmon fishing in 2025. We ask that the PFMC, NOAA Fisheries, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife work together to achieve that goal, return our fleets to salmon fishing, and to prevent exacerbating the negative impacts to our coastal communities.

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors would like to commit our full support of the Noyo Harbor District and their board in their request to a full return to California ocean salmon fishing in 2025

Respectfully submitted,



John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

CC: CDFW Director
California Fish and Game Commission
US Congressman Jared Huffman
CA Assemblyman Chris Rogers