Committee on Natural Resources

U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6050; Fax (202) 225-1931

Written Testimony Format Requirements

The guidelines apply to materials you submit to the Committee for inclusion in the printed hearing record. During the hearing, you may submit additional statements and exhibits or supplementary material solely for distribution to the Members of the Committee. All testimony and materials must be received by the Committee at least **two working days** before the day of the hearing, failure to comply with this requirement may result in the exclusion of the written testimony from the hearing record and/or the barring of an oral presentation of the testimony. (Committee Rule 4(b)).

Each statement and exhibit presented to the Committee must conform to the guidelines listed below. We will not print statements or exhibits not in compliance with these guidelines; however, we will retain such materials in the Committee files for review and use by the Committee.

FORMAT: Please use typed single space letter-size (8½ x 11) white paper not to exceed a total of 12 pages. Electronic Copies of your testimony provided to the Committee may be in Microsoft Word (provided it is saved with no tracking), or WordPerfect, text (ASCII).

Please do not send documents in .PDF format.

NO COVER PAGE. No cover page is needed, although your name, title, the organization that you represent, and the date and title of the hearing should be stated at the beginning of your written testimony:

ATTACHMENTS: If you submit attachments or exhibits to your testimony please include them as **separate items** at the end of your testimony. If attachments are more than 10 pages (in addition to your original testimony) or on paper larger than 8½ x 11, we will not accept them for printing. Instead, you should paraphrase or quote as needed. If including charts, tables, maps, or photographs, they should be included on separate pages, not within the text of a page. As with your testimony, we would appreciate a copy of all attachments in electronic form. Copyrighted material will not be duplicated by the Committee.

PUBLIC ACCESS. The Committee provides public access via Internet through the World Wide Web at the U.S. House of Representatives at http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/(or the Library of Congress http://www.house.gov/).

THINGS TO AVOID: Underlining, footnotes, capitalization of the whole document or solid blocks of text.

DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT
Required by House Rule XI, clause 2(g)
and Rules of the Committee on Resources

1. Name: Roger Thomas

2. Business Address: PO Box 40, Sausalito, CA 94966

3. Business Phone Number: 415-674-3474, 415-760-9362

4. Organization you are representing:
   Golden Gate Fishermen's Association
   F/V Salty Lady

5. Any training or educational certificates, diplomas or degrees or other educational experiences which add to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing: No

6. Any professional licenses, certifications, or affiliations held which are relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing: USCG Master License - 40 years

7. Any employment, occupation, ownership in a firm or business, or work-related experiences which relate to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing: Owner of 4 Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFV) commencing in 1968. I am presently the owner/operator of the 56 foot CPFV Salty Lady. Extensive experience in operating from Point Arena to Point Sur, California, with primary focus out of the San Francisco Bay area for salmon fishing.

8. Any offices, elected positions, or representational capacity held in the organization on whose behalf you are testifying:

   Golden Gate Fisherman's Association: I have been a member of this since 1968, elected to the Board of Directors in 1969 and was subsequently elected President in 1973 and have continued to serve in that capacity since.

   Pacific Fishery Management Council:
   Salmon Advisory Subpanel 1977-1983
   Council Member late 1983 - 1985
   Council Member 1986 - 1989
   Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel 1990 - 1997
   Council Member - August 1998 - June 2006

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission:
California Charter Boat advisor from 1975 to present time
MAFAC member 1984 - 1987
National Sea Grant Review Panel member 1983 - 1992
Central Valley Fisheries Coalition member 1992 - 1999
Bay Delta Advisory Council member 1995 -2001

9. Any federal grants or contracts (including sub grants or subcontracts) from the Department of the Interior or Department of Commerce (and or other agencies invited) which you have received in the last three years, including the source and the amount of each grant or contract: None

10. Any federal grants or contracts (including sub grants or subcontracts) the Department of the Interior or the Department of Commerce (and or other agencies invited) which were received in the last three years by the organization(s) which you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract: None

11. Any other information you wish to convey which might aid the members of the Committee to better understand the context of your testimony:

My firsthand experience as an active Captain running a salmon fishing boat gives me a valuable perspective in regards to the resource, ocean conditions and problems associated with the fishery. In addition the committees and Councils which I have participated on, I have been in active in working with my fellow fishers and have worked hard to develop and support a large number of conservation measures to enhance the salmon fishery.

May 7, 2008 (4:46PM) - non governmental witness

TESTIMONY OF ROGER THOMAS
BEFORE THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE AND OCEANS

MAY 15, 2008

My name is Roger Thomas. Thank you for providing the opportunity to speak in regard to the salmon fishery crisis that now exists off the West Coast of California, Oregon, and Washington.

I am here on behalf of the Golden Gate Fishermen's Association (GGFA), which represents the majority of the commercial passenger fishing vessels (CPFV), located in the following California ports: Monterey, Santa Cruz, Half Moon Bay, Berkeley, Emeryville, San Francisco, Sausalito, Bodega Bay, and Fort Bragg.

In addition, I will speak on my own behalf as owner/operator of the vessel Salty Lady.

ECONOMIC IMPACT TO CPFV FLEET IN EACH PORT:

Monterey	
5 vessels	$ 430,000
Moss Landing	
1 vessel	90,000
Santa Cruz	
2 vessels	160,000
Half Moon Bay	
6 vessels	550,000
San Francisco	
7 vessels	600,000
Emeryville	
6 vessels	700,000
Berkeley	
7 vessels	847,000
Sausalito	
6 vessels	775,000
Bodega Bay	
2 vessels	400,000
Ft. Bragg	
6 vessels	900,000
The total for 49 CPFV vessels is:	$5,432,000

This figure represents a direct economic loss to those vessels due to salmon fishing closures. Vessels located in the following ports were not included: Port San Luis, Morro Bay, Eureka and Crescent City.

The California Department of Fish & Game's licensing records indicate 85 CPFVs who are properly licensed and eligible to participate in the recreational salmon fishery.

The percentage of loss by vessels due to salmon closure ranges from 50% to 100% of total income. This is variable due to seasons, weather and accessibility to other fisheries.

Income losses to CPFVs have a dramatic effect on the local economies.

Most vessel operators have laid off their full-time crew and will utilize part-time help when needed.

Many businesses located in these ports, such as: bait, tackle and booking shops, fuel docks, marine electronic repair, shipyards, marine mechanics will be impacted by loss of CPFV income.

In some years, our fleet carries over 200,000 anglers for salmon fishing. The loss of these fishers will have a direct effect on all local businesses – restaurants, hotels, motels, service stations, tackle shops, etc. This loss is very difficult to measure, but will have a dramatic effect on these communities.

- On May 10, 2008, Mr. Dan Temko, Harbor Master, Pillar Point Harbor, San Mateo County, provided a statement in regard to projected loss due to salmon closure. The loss to Pillar Point Harbor is $415,970.00. (See attached letter.)
- Margaret Beckett, owner of Huck Finn Sportfishing at Pillar Point Harbor estimates her business loss to be approaching $60,000.00 in 2008 due to salmon closure. (See attached letter.)

The losses related to the closure of the recreational and salmon fisheries will severely affect all ports and infrastructure that supports the fishing industry.

- FV Salty Lady – based on 2005 business records of salmon revenue earned, 2008 will result in a personal loss of $155,255.00
- Besides the loss of personal gross income, the value of my vessel, which I always considered a major part of my retirement, has decreased due to this salmon closure.

2008 Salmon Closure

This is the worst crisis the salmon fishery has ever faced. Bad as dams have been on the fish, the droughts of the mid-'70s and early '90s, the El Niño of 1982-83, or the fish kills in the Klamath in recent years, this year will be the first total closure of salmon fisheries in California and Oregon in history.

In response to droughts, El Niño events and the Klamath fish kills in recent years, fishermen have responded through the Pacific Fishery Management Council by recommending the following changes:

- 1978 – Response to drought – Reduction in recreational limit.
- 1992 – Winter Run ESA Listing - Recreational season reduced by two months. Commercial season April opening delayed to May 1st.
- Fishing gear changes to reduce mortality for both recreational and commercial include barbless J hooks and barbless circle hooks while drifting.

These regulation changes in all cases were recommended by the ocean marine harvest groups in a dedicated spirit for conservation of the salmon resource.

Our Fleet supports Practical and Necessary Actions to Solve the Salmon Crisis

Reduce impacts of export pumping and diversions in the Delta.

- Limit total exports through Delta to a maximum of 4.5 million acre-feet per year and eliminate pumping during periods of peak smolt migration.
- Require mitigation for all direct or indirect losses of salmon.
- Construct state-of-the-art screening and salvage operations at water diversions and pumping facilities including state and federal projects.

Improve water quality in the Delta and on Central Valley rivers and streams.

- Eliminate the Central Valley agricultural waiver to pollution discharge.
- Reduce urban pesticide loading in urban storm runoff.
- Enforce federal and state clean water laws.

Improve access to blocked salmon habitat.

- Remove destructive and obsolete dams, especially on the Klamath River and Battle Creek.
- Remedy passage and entrainment problems, especially on the Yuba River and Butte Creek.
- Keep the gates up all year on the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.

Improve habitat in Central Valley rivers and streams by enhancing flows, providing cooler temperatures and restoring functional floodplains.

- Implement the American River flow standards and fully implement restoration flows on other rivers such as the Trinity and San Joaquin.
- Increase cold water habitat below salmon-blocking dams.
- Systematically provide for restored functional floodplain habitat including mitigation for levee projects that limit salmon rearing habitat.

Reduce impacts of hatchery operations on fish of native origin.

- Mark 100% of hatchery fished released.
- Implement "Integrated Hatchery Programs" and the standards of the Hatchery Science Review Group.
- Truck all hatchery fish to acclimation pens below the delta.

Provide effective governmental leadership.

- Provide funding resources to enable regulatory agencies to do their job.
- Enforce all existing laws and regulations: State and federal Clean Water Acts, Endangered Species Act, mitigation requirements, and river flow standards and regulations.

Acoustically Monitored Movement Pattern of Juvenile Chinook Salmon.

We support the efforts of this project to provide data that is necessary for proper management in the Delta.

Data indicated in attachment titled: Survival and Migration Patterns of Central Valley Juvenile Salmonids shows a survival rate of 2% at the Golden Gate.

We believe in ultrasonic technology and urge continued use of this technology to provide us with information in regard to problem smolts encountered in their travel to the ocean.

San Mateo County Harbor District
Pillar Point Harbor

Board of
Harbor Commissioners

Ken Lundie, President
Leo Padreddii , Vice President
Sally Campbell, Treasurer
Pietro Parravano, Secretary
James Tucker, Commissioner

Peter Grenell, General Manager

1933 – 2008
Celebrating 75 Years

May 10, 2008

Roger Thomas

Ref: **Response to your request for information regarding the Economic Impact to Pillar Point Harbor resulting directly from the Salmon Season Closure.**

Dear Mr. Thomas,

The table below lists the projected dollar revenue losses that Pillar Point Harbor expects to see in for the coming fiscal year, resulting from the closure of the entire California Salmon Season. The figures are based on losses already incurred during fiscal year 07-08 and projected to continue through fiscal year 08-09.

The San Mateo County Harbor District provides much needed public services at Pillar Point Harbor in Half Moon Bay California, These services include: Public marinas, launch ramps, trails, parks, beach access, restrooms, Harbor Patrol, and 24 hour Ocean Search and Rescue services. The Last but not least Item, Ocean Search and Rescue Services Is provided by the Harbor District, because there are no Coast Guard Stations on this area of the coast (the nearest stations are San Francisco and Santa Cruz.)
The projected losses listed below will severely compromise the San Mateo County Harbor District's ability to provide these crucial public services:

Projected Economic Impact to Pillar Point Harbor, San Mateo County Harbor District's Operating budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 due to Salmon Season Closure

Berth Revenues decreases	249,458
Transient Berths decreases	45,000
Launch Fees decreases	30,000
Boat Wash decreases	1,500
RV Parking decreases	7,500
Rents and Concessions decreases	100,000
Total reduction in revenues	**433,458**
Original Operating Revenues	2,003,429
Revenues With Closure	1,569,971
Total Operating Expenses	1,985,941
Shortfall	**$415,970**

Sincerely,
Daniel Temko
Dan Temko, Harbor Master Pillar Point Harbor

One Johnson Pier, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650)726-6626 F 726-4470
www.smharbor.com

Huck Finn Sportfishing
P.O. Box 1432
El Granada, CA 94018-1432
Located at 15 Johnson Pier – Pillar Point Harbor
http://HuckFinnSportfishing.com
650-726-7133 Phone 650-726-2525 fax

May 10, 2008

Roger Thomas, President
Golden Gate Fisherman's Assoc.

Re: Request for information regarding potential income loss based on 2008 salmon season closure

Dear Mr. Thomas,

My husband Bill and I have owned our Sportfishing landing in Half Moon Bay since 1990. He has fished all of his life and knows nothing else and I have been a deckhand, licensed captain with my own boat and a landing operator most of my adult life. We book eight independently owned passenger fishing vessels, and receive income from that as well as the bait & tackle sales and fishing licenses to their customers and private boaters. This is how we make our living. Alternative fisheries only provide a small portion of our income. What is happening this year with the salmon season closure has us unsure how long we will be able to continue with our business.

We have had diminishing seasons and regulations have been constantly changing to reduce the take of the Chinook salmon over the years, but a total closure of how we derive most of our livelihood has left us scrambling to figure out what our options for the future might be.

We were fortunate to be eligible for funding from the 2006 Klamath salmon disaster, in the amount of $33,000.00. That was a salmon season that was still open, but produced bleak results and a greatly reduced clientele. With a total closure like this year, I anticipate financial losses to be greater than that, possibly as much as $60,000.00. I know that April which is what would have been our opening month of salmon season, this year our cash register revenue alone, without booking fees, was down $15,000.00, based on the same year comparisons.

We would be happy to provide any further information that you or the subcommittee might need to further clarify the disaster that is happening not only for us but anyone associated with the salmon industry.

Sincerely,

Margaret Beckett

Margaret Beckett

Survival & Migratory Patterns of Central Valley Juvenile Salmonids: Overview

B. MacFarlane, P. Klimley, S. Lindley, A. Ammann, P. Sandstrom, E. Chapman, and C. Michel

Introduction

In 2007, a new project to assess survival and movement patterns of juvenile salmonids, using a high-spatial resolution acoustic design, was funded by CALFED. This 3-year project is run by researchers from the University of California, Davis, & the Fisheries Ecology Division of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center of NOAA's Fisheries Service.

Objectives

- Estimate reach-specific survival
- Determine reach-specific rates of movement
- Influences of environmental variables (hydrologic, land use, riparian corridor) on survival & movement patterns

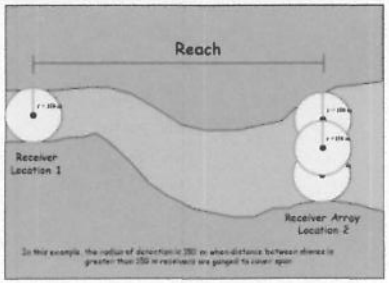
Collaborators

Several agencies were immediately interested in collaborating with the CALFED funded project

They have provided additional acoustic tags & receivers, as well as expertise and manpower to address their needs.

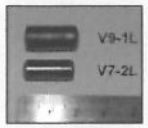
Collaborators	Purpose
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco, CA	Dredging & Disposal, San Francisco Estuary
Bay Planning Coalition, San Francisco, CA	
ECORP Consulting, Inc., Rocklin, CA	
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Stockton, CA	Water Exports & Pumping, Delta
CA Dept. Water Resources, Sacramento, CA	
East Bay Municipal Utility District, Lodi, CA	Ecosystem studies & hatchery, Mokelumne River
Hanson Environmental, Inc., Walnut Creek, CA	Sand mining, Rivers confluence

Concept: Acoustic receivers are placed along outmigration corridor to define reaches; spaced to increase detection probability of acoustically-tagged fish passage



Technology

Ultrasonic transmitters
- Very small (7-9mm dia x 18.5-24mm, ~2-4g in air)
- Uniquely coded signal
- Battery life of 95-150 days
- 69kHz works in fresh and salt water
- Surgically implanted
- Vemco®tags (~$300 each)



Vemco VR2

Automated receivers
- Records tag number and time
- Range of up to 300m
- Easy to deploy and recover
- 12-15 mo battery life
- Vemco VR2 (~$1,000 each)
- Temperature logger @ each site

Fish

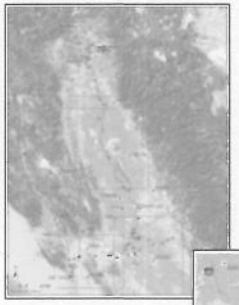
Late-fall Chinook salmon

Steelhead

Late-fall Chinook salmon	Steelhead
FL: 165 mm (141-198)	FL: 217 mm (158-264)
Wt: 46.5 g (22-82)	Wt: 112 g (43-220)
N: 200	N: 200
Tag: V7-2L	Tag: V9-1L
% fish wt (air): 3.4	% fish wt (air): 3.4

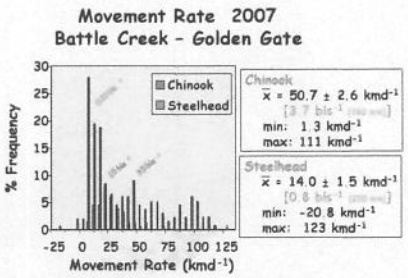
Fish were tagged at Coleman National Fish Hatchery & released:
- in Sacramento River near Battle Creek (steelhead)
- in Battle Creek (late-fall Chinook salmon)
- in lower Sacramento River (additional 200 late-fall Chinook & 50 steelhead for Delta & Estuary studies)

Study Area

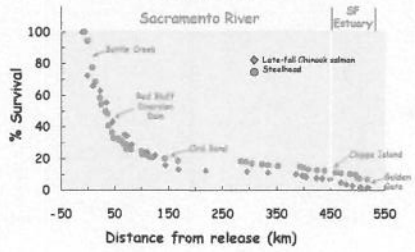


△ VR2 Receivers Locations

Early Results



- Late-fall Chinook salmon smolts moved rapidly through the river and estuary, averaging 50 kmd-1 (3.7 body lengths per sec)
- Steelhead smolts were significantly slower, at 14 kmd-1, some may have residualized, at least temporarily, based on net movement upstream



- High mortality was experienced in the upper reaches of the Sacramento River, particularly in Battle Creek for Chinook salmon. Steelhead released in river.
- By Ord Bend, only ~ 20 % survived
- Survival to Chipps Island was 7% for Chinook & 12% for steelhead
- Survival to the Golden Gate was 2% for Chinook & 7% for steelhead

Website

For more information & updates go to:

http://californiafishtracking.ucdavis.edu/index.html