

LCDR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2007 11:24 AM
To: [REDACTED] LCDR
Cc: [REDACTED] LCDR; [REDACTED] LTJG
Subject: RE: Salmon Fishing Area off Pt. Reyes

[REDACTED]:
If I may add a few comments to your excellent report.

D11 has approximately 1,550 permitted salmon fishers. As mentioned, these boats are mostly trollers with 1-2 POB. Pacific salmon spawn in suitable rivers from the Sacramento-San Joaquin system northward, which keeps the majority of salmon fishers off the waters around Pt. Reyes and north. (12 years ago, Fort Bragg landed the most salmon on the entire West Coast.)

Best,

[REDACTED]
Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Specialist Eleventh Coast Guard District Coast Guard
Island, Bldg 50-8 Alameda, CA 94501
510-437-5931

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2007 10:44 AM
To: [REDACTED] LCDR
Cc: [REDACTED] LCDR; [REDACTED] LTJG; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Salmon Fishing Area off Pt. Reyes

[REDACTED],
The season normally runs from 1 May to 30 September, with a Monday to Friday allowance in October, depending on total landing reports. The last couple years there have been major actions by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, a federally chartered council to manage fisheries for specified areas and species, to restrict the salmon fishery over concerns about the ability to the Klamath River salmon population. Last year was almost a total shut-down that extended from Pigeon Pt. in Santa Cruz, CA to Florence OR. There have been funds appropriated at state and federal levels to help mitigate the severe impact those restrictions had on the industry last year.

Here are the salmon season windows for this year for the local AOR:

Pt. Arena to Pigeon Pt. (San Francisco)

• May 9-31; July 1 through August 29; September 1-30.
All salmon except coho.

Pt. Reyes to Pt. San Pedro (Fall Area Target Zone) • October 1-5; 8-12.
Open Monday through Friday. All salmon except coho.

Pigeon Pt. to Pt. Sur (Monterey)

• May 1-31; July 1 through August 29; September 1-30.
All salmon except coho.

Price for Salmon is high presumably due to low numbers being caught this year. Word around the docks is that not much salmon is being caught. When the season reopened in July, most of the boats stayed in port the first week due to poor weather conditions. So even though the restrictions are less this year, there haven't been as many salmon being caught and weather has also reduced time on the water.

Point Reyes, Gulf of Farallones is an area where commercial salmon activities take place every year. Commercial salmon are caught via trolling, from mainly small vessels. Most vessels operate with 1 or 2 persons. These vessels typically troll at about 4 knots. Most fishermen fish in loose confederations and keep tabs on each other. They move up and down the coast according to where the fish are biting. Once the word gets out that the fish are biting in a certain area, most salmon vessels will head towards the general area. Many vessels are trailerable and frequently transported to the port closest to where the action is. It may not be unusual to have 20-30 fishing vessels all trolling in a certain area where the "bite is on."

Due to economics, many vessels will drift in groups at night rather than make the trip all the way back to port and go back out again next morning. If they don't have a full load they will want to continue until they fill their holding tank or weekly limit when applicable. Most do not stay out more than two-three days at a time due to limited capacity of their vessels for range/size/provisions/holding capacity. They watch the weather closely and will come in or stay in port if conditions are bad.

During my active duty years, I served in this area at several stations and patrol boats. Historically there have been concerns by fishermen about the potential for collisions with large commercial motor vessels. This concern is not limited to just salmon vessels. As far as I know, fishing vessels are not prohibited from fishing in vessel traffic zones. Salmon trollers are not considered to be restricted enough in their maneuverability to require the display of a day shape (two inverted cones) or all round red over all round white at night/times of reduced visibility to indicate they have gear in the water as is the case with other fishery gear.

Regards,

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Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety
USCG Sector San Francisco, Prevention Dept.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] LCDR
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2007 9:49 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Salmon Fishing Area off Pt. Reyes

Hi [REDACTED],

I am working on an informal investigation into the CG response to the suspected collision between the freighter EVA DANIELSEN and the F/V BUONA MADRE on 13 July 2007. I would like to put something in the statement of facts about how the area off Pt. Reyes is a well-known, high traffic fishing area and that salmon are in season. Could you give me some brief info like this, so I can include in the report.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
LCDR [REDACTED]
D11 ([REDACTED])