Celebrating 65 years of service with a look at the history of west coast fisheries

1960
PMFC calls for Salmon River fish sanctuary

...and opposes dams and the Nez Perce dam site, pointing to nuclear power as an alternative energy source

Salmon River flowing through the Sawtooth National Recreation Area

1960
Fifteen year review included in Commission's annual report

Minimum state contribution was $2,000--review notes vast increase in fishery and ocean research

1962
PMFC adopts resolution supporting Alaska membership in the Commission

Review described evolution of PMFC to information and data services role, increased involvement in international affairs and rise of economic analysis

July 1963
Idaho joins PMFC

October 12, 1964
Congress extends the U.S. fishing zone to 12 miles offshore

...in reaction to increases in foreign fishery activity off the coasts.

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1969
Commission adopts resolution opposing Ben Franklin Dam on the mainstem Columbia

That same year, thousands of summer chinook die when the newly installed John Day Dam fishways function improperly. PMFC notes that unquantified losses of juvenile fish also occur annually at the dams, representing an "economic waste" and "an increased drain on the fishery resource"

July 1968
Alaska joins PMFC

PMFC Logo, 1968 - 1982

Harbor Seal

October 21, 1972
Congress adopts Marine Mammal Protection Act

... the first act of Congress to call specifically for an ecosystem approach to resource management and conservation (link).

1970
Congress adopts National Environmental Policy Act

NEPA's basic policy is to assure that all branches of government give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking any major federal action that significantly affects the environment (U.S. EPA).

February 19, 1974
Congress adopts Magnuson legislation initiating the National Ocean Policy Study

February 13, 1974
Boldt decision defines Tribal Treaty fishing and hunting rights in Washington

US National Archives

Snake River, 1973

October 22, 1976
Congress adopts the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan

...for fisheries enhancement in the Snake River system (Link).

March 4, 1977
Commission assumes coordination and operation of Regional Mark Processing Center (RMPC)

The RMPC stewards a centrally managed regional database for sharing coded wire tag (CWT) data among the various fisheries agencies along the West Coast of the U.S.

1981
The Pacific Fisheries Information Network (PacFIN) is established

Administered by the Commission, PacFIN is the nation's first regional fisheries data network.

1983
PMFC calls for two regional management councils

...to develop a comprehensive long-term management plan for salmon and steelhead.

November 7, 1983
PMFC hosts symposium on comprehensive salmon management plan

1979
PMFC supports equal consideration of fisheries in the pending Northwest Power legislation

Bonneville Dam (Wikipedia)

PMFC Logo, 1983-1987

1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985

4th Director Alphonse Kemmerich 1960-1962

5th Director Richard Croker 1962-1963

6th Executive Director Leon Verhoeven 1963—1971

7th Executive Director John P. Harville 1971—1982

8th Executive Director Lawrence D. Six 1982—1987

1961
PMFC Bulletin 5 released

Covers the animal food, shrimp, crab, silver salmon and flatfish--and marking and hooking mortality issues

Available for download from the Streamfier Library

1963
PMFC Bulletin 6 released

Covers salmon landings, trawl catch sampling, sole, pink shrimp and small salmon off the Columbia

Available for download from the Streamfier Library

Chinook Salmon

October 30, 1965
Anadromous Fish Conservation Act passed by Congress

Authorizes cooperative agreements with State and other non-Federal interests for the conservation, development, and enhancement of the Nation's anadromous fishery resources (link).

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October 2, 1968
National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson

Includes the Rogue, Middle Fork Salmon and the Middle Fork Clearwater with Lochsa and Selway tributaries (link).

1968
PMFC Bulletin 7 released

Focuses on sole, sablefish and mink food

Available for download from the Streamfier Library

Jack Smith Collection, HCW_1969-1974

January 28, 1969
Santa Barbara Oil Spill

...caused by a "blowout" below the Unocal Corp drilling platform. Before being plugged, more than 3 million gallons of crude oil spewed from drilling-induced cracks in the floor of the Santa Barbara Channel - just five miles off the coastline.

October 3, 1970
Creation of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

...formed a conglomeration of three existing agencies: U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Weather Bureau, and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (which was renamed the National Marine Fisheries Service).

1972
PMFC Bulletin 8 released

Covers salmon fisheries, tag retention and experimental use of barbless hooks

Available for download from the Streamfier Library

December 28, 1973
Congress Adopts the Endangered Species Act

April 13, 1976
Congress adopts the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Pacific and North Pacific Fishery Management Council's created providing for regional management of fisheries within the 200 mile zone (link).

John Day Dam

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December 5, 1980
Congress adopts the Northwest Power Act

...and launches the Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife mitigation effort.

March 18, 1985
Pacific Salmon Treaty ratified, Pacific Salmon Commission established

link

1960-1985