
From: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:00 AM
To: Scott, James B (DFW)
Cc: Warren, Ron R (DFW); Adicks, Kyle K (DFW); Baltzell, Mark E (DFW); Herring, Chad J (DFW)
Subject: Re: Guidance letter language for Mid-HC Chinook

Good morning Jim,

We settled on this guidance language last year to give the co-managers room to continue to discuss the mid-HC objective - this year is the same situation.

Last year, this guidance was based on the prior two years (2018-19) of PS fishery reductions, which was equivalent to 3 or less fish removed in the PS fisheries (2018=4; 2019=2). The results of the 2020 fishery was <2 fish removed in the PS fisheries, as modelled pre-season. Utilizing the same reference of the prior two years, now 2019-20, the reduction for 2021 would need to be at the scale of 2 or less fish removed in the PS fisheries. Depending on the forecasted TRS, this could likely be met with a range of SUS ER %.

As we indicated last year, the rate that the co-managers can reach agreement on, for your fishery planning purposes, needs to meet this criteria. We are not pre-judging rates (within reason given the status) as appropriate or not.

Thanks and let me know If you have further questions,

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 6:57 AM Scott, James B (DFW) <James.Scott@dfw.wa.gov> wrote:

Hi James – would a 12.4% PTSUS be consistent with that guidance? Jim

From: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Warren, Ron R (DFW) <Ron.Warren@dfw.wa.gov>; Adicks, Kyle K (DFW) <Vincent.Adicks@dfw.wa.gov>
Cc: Scott, James B (DFW) <James.Scott@dfw.wa.gov>; Baltzell, Mark E (DFW) <Mark.Baltzell@dfw.wa.gov>; Herring, Chad J (DFW) <Chad.Herring@dfw.wa.gov>
Subject: Guidance letter language for Mid-HC Chinook

External Email

Good morning,

I understand that there are still discussions going on with regard to the Mid-HC objective and we certainly don't want to impact any progress on that front. That said, we are needing to finalize our guidance language for the March Council meeting. We had discussed, on our call with you recently, that we could roll over the language from last year, if it would provide the room the co-managers needed to continue their discussions. Here is that language with some suggested updates:

1. For the Mid-Hood Canal Chinook population, the 2021 forecast is for very low abundance, as has been the case for recent years. The discontinuation of a small supplementation program for the population has resulted in a marked decrease in total terminal run size for this population. As part of the long-term RMP development, the co-managers are continuing to work toward agreement on a Mid-Hood Canal exploitation rate for SUS fisheries. Understanding that these discussions are ongoing between the co-managers, for the 2021 fishery, NMFS' guidance for the Mid-Hood Canal Chinook population is that fisheries limit their impacts such that the reduction in preseason estimated escapement of natural-origin fish, as a result of Puget Sound fisheries, is similar to the **most recent two years** of preseason estimates. We anticipate that an objective that meets this escapement goal will meet the conservation needs of the population.

removed the specific year reference.

If you could confirm that this language would give the co-managers the necessary space to continue the discussion, we would appreciate it.

The letter is scheduled to go to the Council on Feb 23rd, so we would appreciate a prompt response if possible.

Thank you,

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