
From: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal
Cc: James Dixon - NOAA Federal; David Troutt; James Slape Jr; Walker Duval
Subject: RE: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project
Attachments: Nisqually GN mortality Post season report 2020 Final 3-3-21 CS edits after NOAA response.pdf; GN study field work design for holding.pdf

Tony,

Attached is a revised 2020 report and field drawing based on your edits and comments. I think a meeting to discuss any outstanding concerns would be a great idea. These discussions will help in planning the 2021 proposal.

Craig

From: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal <anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 6:16 PM
To: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>
Cc: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>; David Troutt <troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov>; James Slape Jr <slape.jamesjr@nisqually-nsn.gov>; Walker Duval <duval.walker@nisqually-nsn.gov>
Subject: Re: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project

Craig,

A review of the 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing report is attached. Overall, it looks like the project is providing encouraging results for Nisqually in terms of preliminary survival results and potential interest in the selective fishery. I would be interested in more discussion and context of how the selective fishery and project will be evaluated over the course of the multi-year project and your thoughts on how the project is going in relation to the original objectives.

As far as 2021, I look forward to hearing more about the plans. For the smaller samples size, a decrease in the number of fish is not a problem from an exploitation rate perspective although it would decrease the precision in the estimates of mortality. The 2020 report alludes to an estimate of precision/confidence in the estimate and I would be interested in hearing more about the analysis behind that.

I look forward to further discussion. I'd be happy to arrange for a meeting over the next week or so.

Tony

Anthony Siniscal
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On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 9:15 AM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

Good morning Tony,

We have our annual co-manager model input meeting tomorrow where we discuss and present any input/model changes. Your review of our 2020 GN experimental report will shed light on how we proceed in 2021. I would like to update the group with our plans for 2021 including a reduced sample size at the 100. We plan on continuing using a 100% mortality as discussed previously to be ultra conservative. Obviously 100 encounters is far less than the 450 and the associated ER. The 450 total encounters at 100% mortality has averaged and never exceeded the 2% cap allowed for the experimental fishery by NOAA. The 100 Chinook encounter should not be an issue for you but I would like to hear back soon in case there are any issues that could potentially alter our input.

Thanks,
Craig

From: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal [mailto:anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 5:09 PM

To: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Cc: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>; David Troutt <troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov>; James Slape Jr <slape.jamesjr@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Subject: Re: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project

Craig,

Thank you for sending the 2020 result of the project. I will review the report and get back to you soon.

Have a nice weekend,

Tony

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 5:20 PM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

Anthony,

We have completed the 2020 results and are attached. I think that it would be better to meet as soon as you have reviewed the attached document. I would like to make sure we have time during March or earlier to finalize the 2021 project so we can have it squared away way before the season.

Sound good?

Craig

From: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal [mailto:anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:14 AM
To: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>
Cc: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>; David Troutt <troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov>
Subject: Re: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project

Craig,

I hope you are well. I am following up on our discussions from last fall to get something on our calendars to discuss the 2020 results and 2021 plans for the Nisqually selective fishing project. You had previously expressed interest in meeting once the 2020 project report is completed and before the April PFMC meeting. Would a meeting during the week of March 29 allow enough time before the PFMC meeting starting on April 6th? Or should we shoot for the previous week? Once we settle on a date I can arrange a video conference and send out a calendar invite.

Tony

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On Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 9:51 AM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

Tony,

I think it would be a great idea to set a meeting prior to PFMC2 so we can capture language in LOAF that does not have "until NOAA approves". Be nice to get a test fishing regulation in front of the Nisqually Fish Commission in July with our commercial opener so we can make sure it happens.

At our meeting we may need to narrow down our scope and target less fish for all to feel comfortable particularly in light of this year's not so great hatchery harvest. We should target what would be needed for a solid estimate - 100 or so. If I can get the report done early March we could meet soon after.

Craig

From: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal [mailto:anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 5:55 PM

To: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Cc: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>; David Troutt <troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Subject: Re: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project

Craig,

Thank you for the updates. Great to hear that you were able to get some days in for the project. We look forward to seeing the report in March. Perhaps we can set a date in early April to discuss the results and to go over the plans for 2021. Should we get something on the calendar?

Tony

Anthony Siniscal

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On Tue, Sep 29, 2020 at 11:41 AM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

Tony,

We were not able to proceed with project as planned because we had not had NOAAs blessing prior to the planned August 1 start date and timing is everything sometimes. We received clearance from NOAA on August 3rd which fell after our Fish Commission met to pass regulations for the commercial fishery so it took several weeks to get back together. When we did get back together it was near the end of a very frustrating Chinook season and the Nisqually Fish Commission was in no mood to entertain a test fishery. Based on our commercial catch at the time the hatchery run was looking about 30% of forecasted catch which gave rise to concerns about rack as previously communicated by David about not trucking. When we did get the regulation signed the Fish Commission narrowed down the scope to one day a week and a total of 100 adult Chinook. Then the smoke hit and we missed the first possible week.

The good news: We have fished two weeks (1 day a piece) and caught 10 fish per week (the number of live bags). The fishers were able to fish as they would a normal commercial drift fishery, finish at our recovery stations, and pull all fish out. We held for 24+ hours and every single one was doing great on release. One fish per week bleed but recovered by release time. Really exciting!

This week's (wk 40) catch had more coho than Chinook (beginning of Coho management). Our commercial fishery data from the past shows that next week (wk 41) the Chinook availability will be very low. We don't plan on going past week 41 because we obviously will not get to 100 Chinook and too many Coho are encountered however, there has been zero instantaneous coho mortality.

Overall the crew was very pleased and very excited about how it worked. The live bags are very helpful and seem to work very well in holding the Chinook in the river.

It was also very good to get our feet wet so we can get this going sooner next year before the pink show, hump out, and things get more tough. Can we get agreement in April next year?

Craig

From: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal [mailto:anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>
Cc: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>; David Troutt <troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov>
Subject: Re: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project

Hi Craig,

I hope you are well. Just checking in on the Selective Fishery Project. Were you able to proceed with the project as planned?

Tony

Anthony Siniscal

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On Mon, Aug 24, 2020 at 1:16 PM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

Thanks!

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On Aug 24, 2020 12:14 PM, Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal <anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov> wrote:

Hi Craig,

Thank you for keeping us in the loop. I discussed with James and we do not see any issues with removing the genetic sampling component from the 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project. Thank you for sending us the revised plan (dated 08-19-20) reflecting this change.

Tony

Anthony Siniscal

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On Wed, Aug 19, 2020 at 9:28 AM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

Good morning Tony and James,

After internal discussion we have decided to not take genetics from UMUT Chinook as outlined in plan. Taking genetics will not tell us much and because the test fishery is within the commercial and sport fishery boundary the probability of removal is high which would create too much noise for the purpose of the parentage analysis. We would have to externally mark so we don't end up sampling again at CIR or on spawning grounds. We don't want

to handle these fish any more than we have to. I have attached a change of plan with the genetic part removed. Please let me know if this is a show stopper, if so we will continue as previously planned.

Craig Smith

From: Craig Smith
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal <anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov>; James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project

Tony and James,

We have not recieved the green light from NOAA. Trying to keep this moving forward.

Thanks,

Craig

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal <anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov>
Date: Jul 27, 2020 2:22 PM
Subject: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project
To: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>
Cc: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>, James Slape Jr <slape.jamesjr@nisqually-nsn.gov>, Walker Duval <duval.walker@nisqually-nsn.gov>, Susan Bishop - NOAA Federal <susan.bishop@noaa.gov>, David Troutt <troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Sounds good. Thanks Craig.

Tony

On Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 2:11 PM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

Tony,

I won't know if David can make 31st call until the 30th. He is in Sekiu fishing. Set it up for the 31st and he may or may not be able to join. If it is a problem not having him join then we can wait to hear from him about a later date. Sound good?

Thanks,

Craig

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On Jul 27, 2020 10:06 AM, Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal <anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov> wrote:

Craig,

Thank you very much for the clarifications. Given that your plans are for mid- to late-August, we could meet next week if that is better for you and David. We wanted to meet before the fishing/sampling was to commence. Let me know; I'd be happy to set up a call this Friday or next week.

Tony

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On Mon, Jul 27, 2020 at 9:02 AM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

Good morning Anthony,

I think David said that he is available for a call next week, however, we don't plan on fishing/sampling until mid to late August mostly because the fish will not be in the area we are sampling until then. I planned August 1 as a date mostly so that we get our drifts figured out and cleaned out before the fish actually show (river changed a lot after this winter's flood). As agreed we will not deploy nets in the water for the Selective Fishing Project until you give the green light.

It is possible to have the reporting date be March 2021.

If we do not have the staff because of covid, we simple will not fish/sample and the Selective Fishing Project will take a backseat to our core obligations.

Can you set up a call/video conference the morning of Friday the 31st? If David is not available you will just get me.

Thanks,

Craig

From: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal [mailto:anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov]

Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 12:01 PM

To: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Cc: David Troutt <troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov>; James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>;

Susan Bishop - NOAA Federal <susan.bishop@noaa.gov>; Walker Duval <duval.walker@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Subject: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project

Hi Craig,

We would like to clear up a few items before the fishery proceeds. Some of these items could be settled via email but others may necessitate a call.

What is the current schedule for selective fishing activity? The start date of August 1st (from the fishing plan) was our motive behind scheduling a call next week so that we could shore up our understanding of the project and concur that it would go forward.

The reporting deadline of May 25 is too late for the purposes of incorporating the impact of the fishery into pre-season planning and development of the Puget Sound Biological Opinion for 2021. We would need the results of the fishery by March 2021. Please confirm that this is possible.

In your email you mentioned the availability of staff and sampling of non-core projects. Please clarify this as I wasn't sure if this was to mean that the fishery may not occur or that it would not be sampled. The latter would be outside of our previous agreements.

Thank you for the coordination to date. I look forward to continuing the discussion.

Have a good weekend,

Tony

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On Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 1:59 PM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

Tony,

Most of us are on vacation next week (David). Is there a need for a call if we have provided the information you all have suggested in the project plan?

The only thing I could add as a concern about the sampling is due to COVID and availability of staff. We have lots of monitoring obligations to meet in season and with people out or distance working sampling non-core projects may not occur.

Craig

From: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal [mailto:anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:11 AM

To: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Cc: David Troutt <troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov>; James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>; Susan Bishop - NOAA Federal <susan.bishop@noaa.gov>; Walker Duval <duval.walker@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Subject: Re: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project

Craig,

Thank you for getting back to us so quickly. Could we schedule a brief call for next week? We have openings in the afternoons of Tuesday (7/28), Wednesday (7/29), or Thursday (7/30).

Tony

Anthony Siniscal

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On Mon, Jul 20, 2020 at 9:40 AM Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov> wrote:

| Tony,

Attached is an updated description of the 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project that addresses comments from NOAA staff.

Craig Smith

From: Anthony Siniscal - NOAA Federal [mailto:anthony.siniscal@noaa.gov]

Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:44 AM

To: Craig Smith <smith.craig@nisqually-nsn.gov>

Cc: David Troutt <troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov>; James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>; Susan Bishop - NOAA Federal <susan.bishop@noaa.gov>

Subject: 2020 Nisqually Selective Fishing Project

Greetings, Craig,

I have been working with James Dixon on reviewing the 2020 plans for the Nisqually Selective Fishing Project. Comments from our discussions are included in the attached document. We would like to briefly discuss the upcoming work and our comments on the plan. Do you have any availability during the last week of July for a conference call?

Best regards,

Tony

Anthony Siniscal

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