
From: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 19, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Ben A. Starkhouse
Subject: Re: Nooksack

Good morning Ben,

Hey, would you have any preliminary escapement numbers for 2019 early Chinook available?

Thanks,

On Wed, Mar 17, 2021 at 10:05 AM James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov> wrote:
Good morning Ben and thank you for introducing Mark,

I appreciate you reaching out on this early and giving us time to consider a different approach for this year's fishery. Very interested in how the initial bay fishery goes this year. Even though I understand you are not expecting a lot of fish to return from the bay releases this year, I hope that the fishers can explore the fishery for timing, tides, and drifts in anticipation of the larger returns to come in future years.

We greatly appreciate all of the work that the Lummi NR staff and fishers have contributed over these years of telemetry work and we are very interested in seeing the results of the timing and composition data collected. We also do recognize the significant contribution the SF Nooksack conservation program has made to the overall adult abundance and to the spawning productivity out of the system.

Please give us a couple days to consider the proposal to shift away from the annual, mid-June check-in structure.

I'll get back to you as soon as possible and we can schedule a follow-up, if necessary.

Thank you,

On Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 9:39 AM Ben A. Starkhouse <BenS@lummi-nsn.gov> wrote:
Hi James,

I hope you're doing well.

I wanted to do a quick introduction to Mark Nelson (cc'd), Lummi's new fish bio. Mark will be involved in all things salmon.

I just wanted to check in with you as we begin our NoF process. At this time, we're not planning on conducting the radio tag study this year. We collected a lot of good data the last couple of years and are working on the analysis and writing. Our stock assessment manager (Devin Flawd) is planning to present some of this work at the upcoming Salmon Recovery Conference (April 28-30). I can forward you the info if you're interested in viewing his presentation.

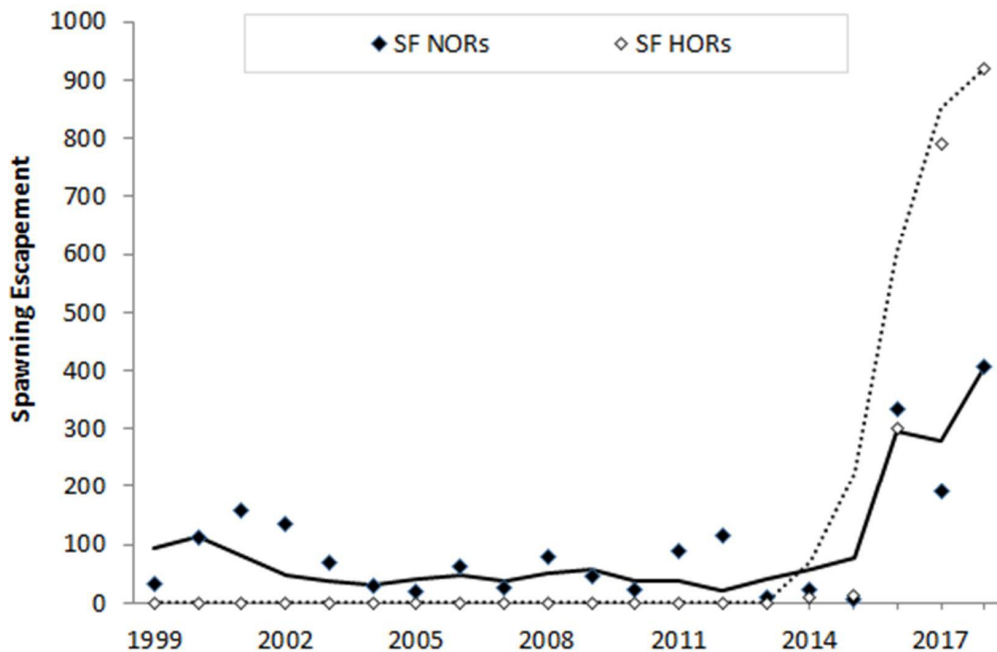
For 2021 we'll continue our tangle net fishery (run by LNR staff and contracted fishers) and plan to have a couple of short subsistence fisheries open to permitted Lummi fishers. Similar to previous years, we're planning to begin our tangle net fishery in mid-April (prior to NOAA approving the 2021-22 fishing package). All unmarked fish encountered in the tangle net fishery will be released with a jaw tag. All marked fish will be retained for C&S use. During subsistence fisheries open to permitted Lummi fishers, all fish (marked and unmarked) will be retained with 100% sampling.

We are again looking for NOAA's approval to continue the in-river tangle net fishery past mid-June, through the end of July. In previous years, NOAA has been concerned about fishing past mid-June because of the impact on SF NORs and has required an in-season check in. At what point does this restriction ease up? Through the success of the Skookum program, the number of SF fish spawning in the wild has grown significantly since 2014 (see figure below). We're willing to put a pre-season cap on the number of NORs encounter/killed later than mid-June. For example, if Lummi's Nooksack spring chinook NOR limit is 30 fish we might include language in the LOAF that limits Lummi to 4 NORs killed between mid-June and the end of July. We're just looking for a bit more flexibility without having to check in and get permission every year. Given the growth of the SF NOR population, can we work something out pre-season that will allow Lummi to target a limited number of NORs after mid-June?

As I mentioned in a previous email to you, Lummi is also planning a commercial fishery in a portion of Lummi Bay (Area 7D) starting as early as late April, if possible. This fishery will target hatchery fish returning to the Lummi Bay salmon hatchery. We're not expecting a whole lot of fish to return this year, but we're aiming to have 100% sampling on this fishery. The NWIFC and WDFW chinook modelers have incorporated this fishery into the fishery model for 2021 planning. Lummi will manage their in-river and Lummi Bay fisheries so as not to exceed their pre-season limit on NORs.

Thanks for your time. We'd be willing to set up a quick call to talk through some of these issues if you prefer that over emailing.

Ben



Spawning escapement for SF NORs and HORs. Point estimates and 3-year geometric mean.

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