
From: Gray, Cindy <cgray@skokomish.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 3:59 PM
To: James Dixon - NOAA Federal
Cc: Christina Iverson - NOAA Federal; Mark Downen
Subject: Re: Seeking clarification on required sampling rates for Hood Canal Chinook and Coho treaty commercial fisheries

Thank you and Skokomish will adjust down the current sampling program to only meet the minimum rate objective of 20%, thank you for the clarification.

Cindy

On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 3:54 PM James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov> wrote:

Hi Cindy, Mark,

Thanks for reaching out for clarification. Sorry for the delay in response and hope this still might have some utility for you.

The 20% sample rate for harvested catch has been the standard, minimum rate objective for fisheries that harvest Chinook and coho salmon. This rate is related to the minimum sampling needed for the continuity (statistically) of the ER-indicator CWT groups managed under the PST.

It has been adopted, as the proposed minimum objective under the PS Chinook RMP (2017 draft, pg 84):

For commercial fisheries, the objective is to sample at least 20% of the catch in each area, in each statistical week, throughout the fishing season.

As well as in the SCSCI (pg 323, section 3.5)

Commercial and recreational salmon harvests will be sampled annually at a minimum of 20% for species composition to obtain statistically valid estimates of species composition. Landed catch ticket information will be the primary source for commercial catch and species composition data in chinook, coho, sockeye and pink fisheries. Shore-based sampling, will be included as part of catch sampling to verify fish ticket information....this applies to Hood Canal and SJF extreme terminal and terminal area fisheries Aug - mid-Oct

In our biological opinion for the PS annual fisheries, we do not specify a rate of sampling, only that sampling occur at a sufficient rate that the co-managers can report accurate information, stating in section 2.9.2 that we will:

ensure that the fisheries that are the subject of this opinion are sampled for stock composition to the extent access to the fish for sampling is possible, including the collection of coded-wire tags and other biological information (age, sex, size) to allow for a thorough post-season analysis of fishery impacts on listed species and to improve preseason forecasts of abundance. This includes:

i. ensuring that the fisheries included in this opinion are sampled for contribution of hatchery and natural-origin fish and the collection of biological information (age, sex, and size) to allow for a thorough post-season analysis of fishery impacts on listed Chinook and steelhead species.

ii. *evaluating the potential selective effects of fishing on the size, sex composition, or age composition of listed Chinook and steelhead populations as data become available.*

iii. *using the information, as appropriate, together with estimates of total and natural-origin Chinook and wild steelhead encounters and mortalities (summer and winter-run) to report fishery impacts*
by *population.*

The 20% sampling rate, at the statistical-week scale, could be viewed as a minimum objective, that would likely provide the information necessary for accurate accounting of harvest impacts. However, this rate may not provide the level of information that individual managers may need, depending on what additional questions they may have about their fishery and certainly, higher rates would provide more precision in estimates.

Please let us know if this answers your questions or if you have follow-ups.

Thanks,

On Wed, Apr 7, 2021 at 10:09 AM Gray, Cindy <cgray@skokomish.org> wrote:

Good morning,

I am seeking clarification on the rate of sampling required by the tribes during Hood Canal and Skokomish River commercial Chinook and Coho salmon fisheries, that have possible impacts on ESA listed Summer Chum, Mid Hood Canal Chinook, the Skokomish River NOR (normal & late-timed components) and Spring Chinook. During yesterday's (4/6/21) Co-manager meeting with WDFW and all Hood Canal Tribes, discussion revolved around the Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC) proposal for a new treaty troll fishery in 12/12B (Mid Hood Canal region) and subsequent efforts to monitor and sample. In lieu of any written documentation (PNPTC to date has not provided the co-managers with a monitoring, sampling and enforcement plan), it was stated by the PNPTC staff that the necessary sampling for this newly proposed treaty troll fishery would be only up to the "industry standard of 20%, if possible" and that "Discussions PNPTC had with NOAA confirmed that this 20%, if possible, was an acceptable rate of sampling". Also, the PNPTC staff stated that "the Skokomish Tribe is over-sampling existing commercial Chinook & Coho fisheries and it is not necessary to exceed 20%, and Skokomish should only be trying to achieve if possible 20%, because circumstances arise that might prevent an agency from meeting that 20%". Please let me know ASAP if this is the case and that 20% or less is acceptable to NOAA fisheries, so that I can adjust the Skokomish Tribe Commercial Sampling and Monitoring Program and refocus current sampling staff and resources to other programs.

Thanks much

Cindy Gray
Finfish Program Manager
Skokomish Tribe
360-877-5213 ext. 2215
360-490-8467 cell

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James Dixon
Sustainable Fisheries Division
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
360-522-3673
james.dixon@noaa.gov

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Cindy Gray
Finfish Program Manager
Skokomish Tribe
360-877-5213 ext. 2215
360-490-8467 cell