
From: James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Scott Schuyler
Cc: Lorraine Loomis; Kelly Susewind; Rob Jones; Adicks, Kyle (DFW); Shawn Yanity; Gerald I. James; George Swanaset Jr; Warren, Ron R (DFW); Jason Joseph; Jason Gobin; Isabel Tinoco; Ben Starkhouse (bens@lummi-nsn.gov) (bens@lummi-nsn.gov); Ned Currence; Mark Nelson; Pete Kairis; Bob McClure; Grant Kirby; Kate Konoski; Kadi Bizayeva; Mike Mahovlich; Jason Schaffler; Fred Dillon; Chris Phinney; Susan Bishop - NOAA Federal; Peone, Rudy; Mercier, Bryan K (BPA) - EW-4
Subject: Re: Puget Sound Fisheries Biological Opinion - Update

Good afternoon,

Just wanted to let folks know that the notice that was sent out today, regarding NMFS issuing annual regulations, was for the ocean fisheries and not for Puget Sound. Sorry for the lack of clarity on that.

I know that everyone is anxious to get their fisheries opened up. I indicated last week that the outlook was good for us finalizing our work by midweek, this week. Well it's mid-day, midweek and I'm writing to tell you we are still working. As I mentioned prior, given the legal challenge this year, there are more eyes at more levels reviewing the document than normal.

I intend to give folks as much notice as possible when it is certain we will be signing the opinion.

On Fri, May 7, 2021 at 5:14 PM James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov> wrote:
Hello All,

Looking to reach out with a more informative update on the biop status. I'm sorry to say that it won't be completed this weekend - not for the lack of working on it, I assure you. Our current estimate would put it likely mid-next week. I understand that that is very frustrating for many of you but we wanted to give you our honest assessment on where things are.

I will certainly reach back out on Monday to see if that is holding firm.

Appreciate your patience and hope folks can have a good weekend and Mother's Day.

On Tue, May 4, 2021 at 8:06 PM James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov> wrote:
Good evening All,

I wanted to give folks an update on the status of the biop work. We made good progress over the weekend and early this week. As I indicated last Friday, I'd like to give you all some certainty on a day for completion but we are not there yet. I will check back with you as soon as we have another update.

Thank you and please reach out if you have questions,

On Thu, Apr 29, 2021 at 7:35 PM Scott Schuyler <ScottS@upperskagit.com> wrote:
Thanks for the update James.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 29, 2021, at 7:06 PM, James Dixon - NOAA Federal <james.dixon@noaa.gov> wrote:

Good evening Lorraine, Kelly,

I wanted to reach out and give folks an update on where our review is for the 2021-2022 harvest plan.

I can say now, with certainty, that we will not be finished with the biop by May 1. That may not come as a surprise to folks but I wanted to make sure that everyone knew that.

I cannot say with certainty, at this point, when we might complete it. I can only say that we are working hard to get through our review process and that it will be completed as soon as possible.

I will keep you all informed of the schedule on a frequent basis to make sure you know where we are, and eventually, when we anticipate completion.

We very much appreciate folks patience and we understand the effect of the delay on your fisheries, particularly after last year's restriction - this year's first fisheries represent an important opportunity and milestone to reconnect with the resource, your families, and traditions.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any specific questions, we will answer as best we can.

Please check your email for updates on the status.

Thank you,

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