



N.W. Indian Fisheries Commission
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 Olympia, WA 98516
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State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife
 600 North Capitol Way
 Olympia, Washington 98511
 (360) 902-2200

March 2, 2012

Dan Tonnes
 NMFS Northwest Region
 7600 Sand Point Way NE
 Seattle, WA 98115

Dan
 Dear Mr. Tonnes

Pursuant the Terms and Conditions for conservation of listed rockfish in the Biological Opinion authorizing Puget Sound salmon fisheries, the Puget Sound tribes and WDFW provide the following summary of salmon fishing gear lost during the 2011 season in marine areas 7 – 13.

In fishing regulations or ordinances, the Tribes require or advise their fishermen to report lost gear to their fisheries management or enforcement agencies. Some tribes have informal agreements to pass information about verified incidents of gear loss to the Northwest Straits Commission (NSC). WDFW advised their fishers to report lost gear to the NSC hotline in 2011.

NWIFC and WDFW staff contacted fisheries and/or enforcement agents to collate the following information. We also requested and received in early January, 2012 a summary of gear loss incidents reported directly to the NW Straits Commission and recorded in their database.

Those incidents reported by commercial fishermen to their respective agencies or directly to NSC are described below. NSC received reports of lost gear from citizens (not fishermen), some of which led to recovery of gear. Other incidents were not verified (described on the NSC database as not found). The NSC database also lists several reported losses that actually involved un-attended gear; these incidents are not further described in this report.

Gear losses reported by commercial fishers or fisheries agencies:

Date	Gear	Location	Disposition	NSC dBase
8/17/2011	GN	Samish Bay - Whiskey Rocks	Recovered 8/19/11	N
8/27/2011	PS	Thatcher Pass - Decatur Is.	Vessel sunk - not recovered	N
9/7/2011	GN	Bellingham Bay	Recovered 9/10	Y
9/16/2011	GN	Bellingham Bay	Not Recovered	Y
9/21/2011	GN	Bellingham Bay	Not Recovered	Y
11/27/2011	8 SN	Southern Hood Canal	Recovered	N

On August 18 WDFW enforcement officers responded to a report of a net tangled on Whiskey Rocks in Samish Bay, near the border between Areas 7B and 7C. The officers recovered the net, with the help of a non-treaty gillnet vessel and a National Response Corporation spill response vessel. A Swinomish tribal purse seiner ran aground and sank in Thatcher Pass (near Decatur Island in Area 7) on August 27th; the seine remains wound onto the drum, and was not recovered. Three incidents involving lost gillnets in Bellingham Bay were reported by non-Treaty fishermen to the NSC. The net reported lost on September 7 was recovered on September 10. The gillnet losses reported on September 16th and 21st were not recovered; we have not verified if these two reported incidents actually involved different nets. Skokomish Tribal Fisheries Enforcement agents removed eight setnets from the shoreline of southern Hood Canal (Area 12C) following the conclusion of the fall chum fishery on November 27th.

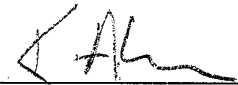
Gear loss reported by other entities:

Date	Gear	Location	Disposition	NWC dbase
9/16/2011	GN	Hale Passage - South PS Area 13	Recovered 9/23/11	Y
11/17/2011	GN	West Seattle - Area 10	Not recovered	Y


NSC received a report of a Treaty gillnet lost in Hale Passage in south Puget Sound (Area 13); their database indicates the net was recovered on September 23. The NSC received a report of a non-Treaty gillnet lost at West Seattle (Area 10) on November 17; the net was not recovered.

WDFW and the Puget Sound tribes will continue to coordinate with NSC on locating and expediting recovery of lost gear.

Sincerely,



 Kyle Adicks, WDFW



 Will Beattie, NWIFC

CC: Susan Bishop, NMFS NWR