

Number of gillnet boats actively fishing, low (3%) and high (5%) estimates of the number of net loss events and number of newly lost nets reported by the public annually in Puget Sound since the inception of the net loss reporting system in 2003. Source: WDFW and Northwest Straits Initiative

(Note: gillnet fishers have reported 2 newly lost nets since project inception, one in 2004 and one in 2006).

YEAR	Total # Gillnet Boats	Estimated Lost Nets		Number of Nets Reported by Public
		Low	High	
2003	776	23	39	-
2004	861	26	43	4
2005	781	23	39	8
2006	898	27	45	4
2007	953	29	48	6
2008	1,081	32	54	7
2009	969	29	48	6
2010	unknown	unknown	unknown	12
	Total 2003-2009	189	316	35

2010 Effort and loss data are not available.

Previous anecdotal interviews with gillnet fishers have indicated that 3% - 5% of gill net fishers (non-Treaty) lose a whole or partial net each year. The estimate above assumes the same loss rate for Treaty fishers though we don't know if this is true or not. An extrapolation of this estimate going back to 1968 is provided on the accompanying worksheet '1968-2009 estimates', which estimates just under 5,000 lost nets since 1968. This is number of derelict nets roughly matches the sum of total derelict nets removed, reported, and estimated remaining in Puget Sound from the NWSI program.

We can assume that in the future a higher percentage of the reported nets will be newly lost nets, as there are few older nets remaining after the NWSI net removal the past 7 years.

We think it is safe to say that in the future, given the amount of gillnet fishing effort in recent years (2010 was unusually high effort due to the large Fraser sockeye run) that about 30 to 50 gillnets will be lost each year and 15 to 20% (5 to 10 nets) will be found by the public and reported. Without comprehensive gillnet fisher reporting of lost nets the remaining 25 to 40 newly lost nets will accumulate each year in Puget Sound.