



Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

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April 23, 2015

Dan Tonnes
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

RE: 2014 Reported Loss of Salmon Fishing Gear

Dear Mr. Tonnes,

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the 2014 Biological Opinion which authorizes Puget Sound salmon fisheries through April 30, 2015, this letter summarized incidents of salmon fishing gear lost during the 2014 season, which were reported by tribal fishers to tribal fisheries management and enforcement agencies.

No reports were submitted to Tribal Resource or Enforcement staff of lost gill nets in the marine environment during 2014 by tribal fishers.

Joan Drinkwin, Northwest Straits Foundation, provided a summary of all (Treaty and Non-treaty) 2014 gear loss incidents described in the Northwest Straits database. A total of 16 reports of lost fishing nets were made in 2014; of which one net was not recovered (Table 1). Additionally, two of the 16 reports may have been for the same net, but insufficient information was available to confirm this. Three of the recovered nets in 2014 were determined to have been lost during 2013 or earlier. Nine reports were verified to involve recently (during 2014) lost salmon fishing gear and in one of these incidents, the fisher returned to remove the net the day it was reported. An additional four reports did not identify year of loss but we are assuming they were newly lost nets, resulting in 13 newly lost nets. In five of the reported incidents, tribal enforcement agencies were involved in locating, verifying, or assisting in removal of lost gill nets. Ownership (Treaty and Non-Treaty) of four of the nets was determined and the respective enforcement authorities were notified.

Table 1. Summary of 2014 reports in NWSF Derelict Gear Reporting Database.

Reporting Entity	New	Unknown	Old	Total
NWSF Derelict Survey Crew	2	2	1	5
Public	4 ^a	2	1	7
Tribal Staff	1	0	0	1
WSDOT	2	0	1	3
Total	9	4	3	16

^a One net may have been reported twice in two areas in close proximity. However, not enough information is available to confirm this.

Sincerely,

Chris James
Conservation Planning Biologist