



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

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**NORTHWEST INDIAN
FISHERIES COMMISSION**

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August 17, 2020

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

Lee Corum
Endangered Species Biologist, USFWS
Washington Fish and Wildlife Office
510 Desmond Dr. SE, Suite 102
Lacey, WA 98503

RE: 2019 Reported Loss of Salmon Fishing Gear

Dear Messrs. Tonnes and Corum,

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of both NOAA's 2019 Biological Opinion (F/WCR-2019-00381) which authorized Puget Sound salmon fisheries through April 30, 2019 and the USFWS's 2017-2036 Puget Sound Treaty and Non-Treaty Salmon Fisheries Biological Opinion (01EWF00-2016-F-1181), this letter summarizes incidents of commercial salmon fishing gear lost in marine waters during the 2019 fishing season which were reported by commercial fishers to fisheries management and enforcement agencies, as well as a summary of reports provided to the Northwest Straits Derelict Gear Hotline (NWSHG) for the 2019 calendar year.

Jason Morgan, Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF), provided a summary of all (Treaty and Non-treaty) gear loss incidents reported during calendar year 2019 as described in the Northwest Straits database. The NWSHG received nine reports of lost salmon nets in marine/estuarine waters potentially associated with Puget Sound co-managers salmon net fisheries during 2019 (Table 1). After investigation, two of the reports were determined to not be lost or derelict salmon fishing gear (Table 1). For purposes of this reporting, we have accounted for these incidents separately in the data for Table 1 (Non-Derelict) as they pertain to a reports provided to NWSHG.

Table 1. Summary of 2019 reports in NWSF Derelict Gear Reporting Database.

Reporting Entity	Lost/Derelict	Non-Derelict ¹
Public	7	2
Fisher Reported	0	0
Tribal/State Resource	0	0
<i>Total</i>	7	2

¹ Non-derelict reports were reported to NWSF but subsequently determined to not be derelict fishing gear.

Of the seven lost/derelict reports in Table 1, five nets were confirmed removed either by NWSF removal crews or Tribal enforcement, while two nets remain. Observations of the removed nets indicates two were portions of nets based on length and width of mesh.

One additional report was provided to Tribal Resource managers by a fisher regarding a gillnet which a WSDOT Ferry ran through cutting the net. There was no indication that any mesh was lost, beyond what was entangled in the Ferry propeller.

Sincerely,



Chris James
Conservation Planning Biologist, NWIFC



David Low
Puget Sound Commercial Salmon
Fishery Manager, WDFW

Cc: Susan Bishop, NOAA
Rudy Peone, BIA
Anna Schmidt, BIA
Craig Bowhay, NWIFC
Kelly Cunningham, WDFW
Valerie Tribble, WDFW