
“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting dates: March 12, Commission Meeting

Agenda item #4: Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project – (Briefing)

Staff Contact: Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager, Fish Program

Presenter(s): Ginny Broadhurst, Director, Northwest Straits Commission;
Jeff June, Derelict Gear Field Manager, Northwest Straits Foundation;
Tom Cowan, Project Manager, Northwest Straits Foundation.

Background:

The Northwest Straits Initiative (NWSI) is the lead organization tracking and removing derelict fishing gear from Puget Sound. In 2001, the NWSI worked with the Department and other partners to establish removal protocols and a no fault reporting system. In 2009 NWSI received a \$4.6 million economic stimulus grant through NOAA to remove 90% of derelict fishing nets in Puget Sound. These nets are having a significant impact on a variety of marine species that have been found in them. Net removal work is on-going and will be completed by end of 2010.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

Briefing is intended to update the Commission on progress on the net removal project and begin a discussion of how to approach the issue of derelict crab pots. WDFW and NWSI figures show that annual loss of crab pots is approximately 12,200 pots in Puget Sound. Currently there is no funding mechanism in place to remove derelict pots. Cost/benefit analyses demonstrate the benefit to the resource and the public in removing derelict pots, particularly in high density crabbing areas.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

N/A

Action requested:

Briefing only.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications Plan:

N/A
