

**From:** [Lothrop, Ryan L \(DFW\)](#)  
**To:** [Dobler, Myrtice C \(DFW\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Rep. Stonier Letter RE: C-3620  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:19:50 AM  
**Attachments:** [signed letter to Rep Stonier RE C.3620.pdf](#)

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Tribal comment.

Ryan Lothrop  
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

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**From:** McBride, Tom A (DFW) <Tom.McBride@dfw.wa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 2, 2020 9:06 AM  
**To:** Lothrop, Ryan L (DFW) <Ryan.Lothrop@dfw.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Response to Rep. Stonier Letter RE: C-3620

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Afternoon Chair Carpenter and Director Susewind,

Please see attached letter from Chairman Yanity in response to Representative Stonier's letter regarding Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620.

If any questions or further discussion is needed, please let me, Shawn or Kadi know.

Thanks, have a good day.

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**Kathryn Konoski**

***Fisheries Program Manager***

*Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians Natural Resources Department*

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## Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians

PO Box 277 · 3322 236<sup>th</sup> St. NE  
Arlington, WA 98223

August 26, 2020

Monica Jurado Stonier  
Representative, 49<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
JLOB 331  
PO BOX 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

### **Re: Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy (C-3620)**

Dear Representative Stonier and Members of the Committee,

The Tribe has reviewed the proposed changes to the Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy (C-3620), as well as your letter addressed to Chairman Carpenter and Director Susewind dated August 24, 2020, and we would like to reiterate our continued opposition to any form of a gill-net ban for non-tribal fishers. We are very concerned not only with your arguments as to the merits of a gill-net ban for non-tribal fishers, but with the prospect that this may be the first step toward attempting to enact an overall gill-net ban. Although our Tribe does not execute a fishery in the Columbia River, as a Tribe with treaty-reserved fishing rights with a co-manager relationship with the State of Washington, we, along with other Tribes, are entitled to government-to-government consultation before the States take any actions that could be deleterious to our treaty rights.

Harvest must be within the permitted total allowable impacts under Endangered Species Act (ESA); regardless if it is commercial non-selective gill-netting or recreational mark-selective fisheries. With the continual decline of salmon populations, we would like to stress that the importance of salmon recovery should not be focused narrowly to harvest opportunities or gear type arguments, but to habitat restoration and recovery.

Upon review of the C-3620, we acknowledge the continued commitment of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to further develop and implement adaptive management policies, and understand your concern with the removal of specific language regarding gill-nets that was complimentary to Senate Bill 5617 and this continued effort to obtain a ban within the Columbia River Basin.

We agree that all fisheries, not just those executed within the Columbia River basin, require careful and proactive management in response to declining salmon and steelhead populations, especially those listed under the federal ESA. We however disagree that a solution is to prioritize Mark-Selective Fishing (MSF) under the guise of “recovery needs” for the ESA-listed

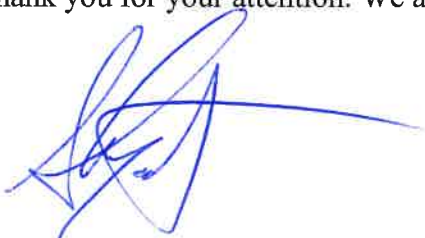
salmon and steelhead populations. During ESA consultation and review of fisheries for permitting, NMFS determines whether these actions will impede recovery, not promote, thereby fisheries cannot be executed as a protection to natural populations. MSF still has impact on ESA-listed salmon and at a greater degree of uncertainty than non-selective fishing, especially with the lack of funding to further expand understanding on release/handling mortalities and fishery encounter estimations. Funding is also needed for establishing robust in-season monitoring plans and increasing fisheries enforcement, with commitment to prosecute illegal retention. We feel that fishing practices in themselves are not the issue, but the actual management of these fishing practices are.

We also disagree with the implication that hatchery produced fish are in “excess” and are required for removal from escapement. Within the Columbia River Basin there are 208 hatchery programs, 90 of which release ESA listed stocks, and are a mix of Harvest or Recovery Programs, both of which may be defined as integrated (intended to spawn in wild or genetically integrate) or isolated (not intended to spawn in wild or genetically integrate). These different program types are not all required to remove hatchery fish as a condition of continued hatchery production. For example, the summer run Chinook and fall run Chinook hatchery programs within the Stillaguamish Watershed are Integrated Recovery Programs. Juvenile releases are produced specifically for natural spawning and maintaining, with the potential of increasing, the annual returns of salmon. Therefore, hatchery fish produced for integration must also be allowed to escape in efforts towards Salmon Recovery and are not produced specifically for harvest and required for removal.

MSF and hatchery produced salmon cannot alone be used as a measure of providing increased escapement of ESA listed and weak wild stocks, unless habitat recovery is the highest priority, as habitat degradation continues to be the major limiting factor to salmon recovery. Within the Stillaguamish River, despite two decades of Mark-Selective Fishing, overall reduced fishing efforts from the co-managers, and a continual hatchery production since 1986, the Stillaguamish natural populations have continually declined (Figure 1). It is also suggested through preliminary data analysis that although hatchery production has remained static, returns of our hatchery spawners have also declined, thus lowering total escapement of adults in recent years.

Lastly, you state that WDFW revenue is “much needed” and referenced their strained operating budget, so we request that you prioritize and increase funding to provide the tools and resources necessary to implement effective management of fishery practices.

Thank you for your attention. We are opposed to any form of a gill-net ban for non-tribal fishers,



Shawn Yanity  
Chairperson - Stillaguamish Tribe

CC: Kadi Bizyayeva  
Scott Mannakee  
Kathryn Konoski  
Peggen Frank  
Mara Machulsky  
J.T. Austin  
Larry Carpenter  
Kelly Susewind  
Larry Hoff  
Andrew Barkis  
Carolyn Eslick  
Tom Dent  
Keith Goehner  
Mary Dye  
Roger Goodman  
Bill Jenkin  
Joe Schmick  
Bradley Klippert  
Drew MacEwan  
Ed Orcutt  
Mike Sells  
Strom Peterson  
Tana Senn  
Eric Pettigrew  
Brandon Vick  
Sharon Wylie  
Alex Ybarra  
Mia Gregerson

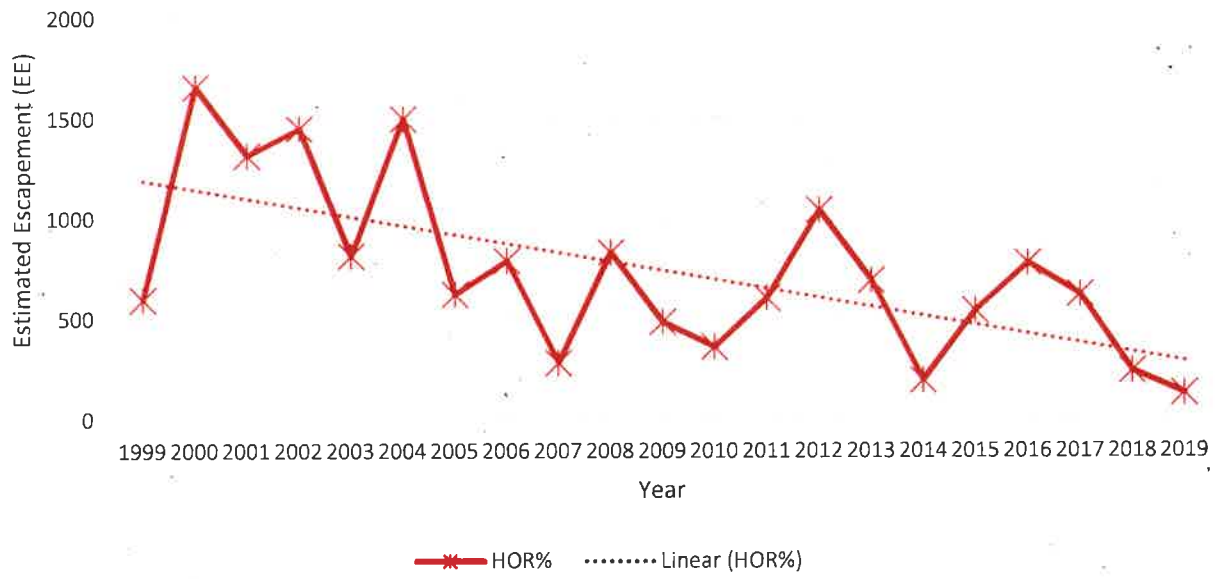


Figure 1. Co-Manager Agreed to Stillaguamish River natural origin Chinook (summer & fall combined) estimated escapements, 1999-2019.