

Recreational Crab and Shrimp Advisor Meeting

**October 7, 2019
WDFW - Mill Creek**



1) Recreational Catch from 2019 Season

See Handout

Region	Marine area	Regional state share	State rec. Summer harvest	Summer estimated unreported catch (EUC)	State rec. Winter harvest	Winter estimated unreported catch (EUC)	State commercial harvest	State commercial euc	Total state harvest to date	State balance to date
1	7	2,200,000	421,936	25,316	77,200	4,632	0	0	529,084	1,670,916
2E	8-1,8-2	1,000,000	613,680	36,821	36,371	2,182	0	0	689,054	310,946
2W	9	225,000	74,209	4,453	11,137	668	0	0	90,467	134,533
3-1	6, N	45,000	1,795	108	242	14	0	0	2,159	42,841
3-2	6, SE	350,000	110,399	6,624	14,864	892	0	0	132,779	217,221
3-3	4, 5, 6 W	25,000	6,177	371	587	35	0	0	7,170	17,830
4	10	33,212	46,313	2,779	0	0	0	0	49,092	-15,880
5	12	130,000	64,087	3,845	0	0	0	0	67,932	62,068
6	11	0	619	37	0	0	0	0	656	-656
7	13	0	535	32	0	0	0	0	567	-567
STATE HARVEST TOTALS		4,008,212	1,339,750	80,385	140,401	8,424	-	-	1,568,960	



2) Recovery Status of Crab Fishery in MA 11, 12 & 13

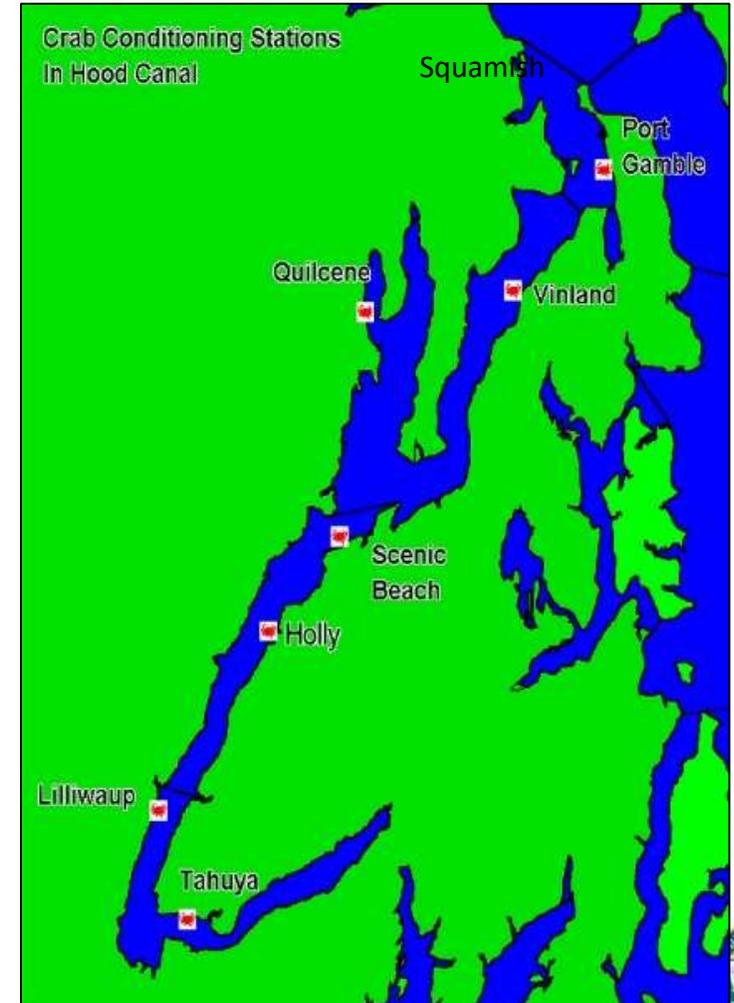
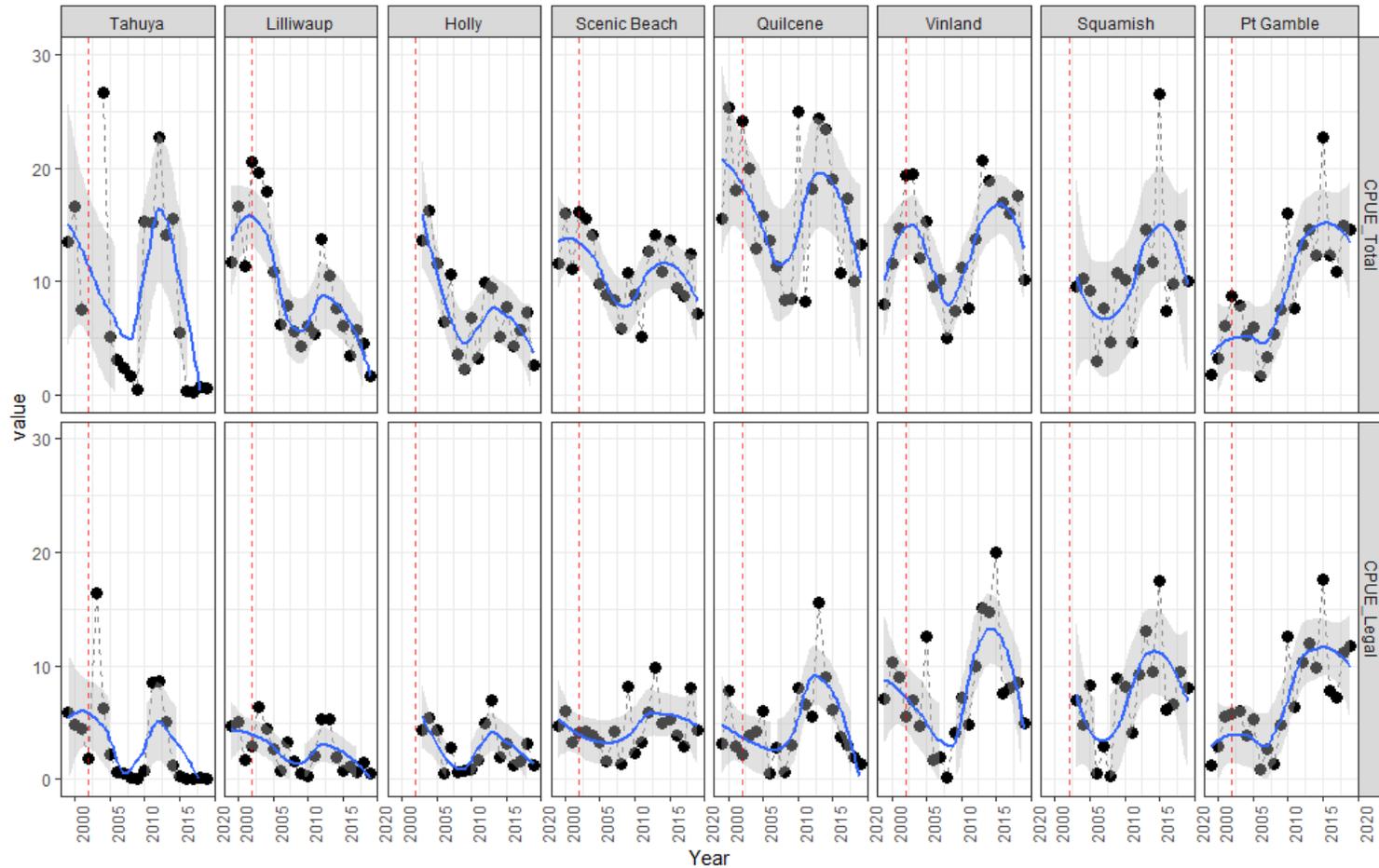
Look at the status report for Commission -

- a. Prospect of re-opening for 2020
- b. Potential for red rock fishery in 2020 or future date



2) Recovery Status of Crab Fishery in MA 11, 12 & 13

Hood Canal

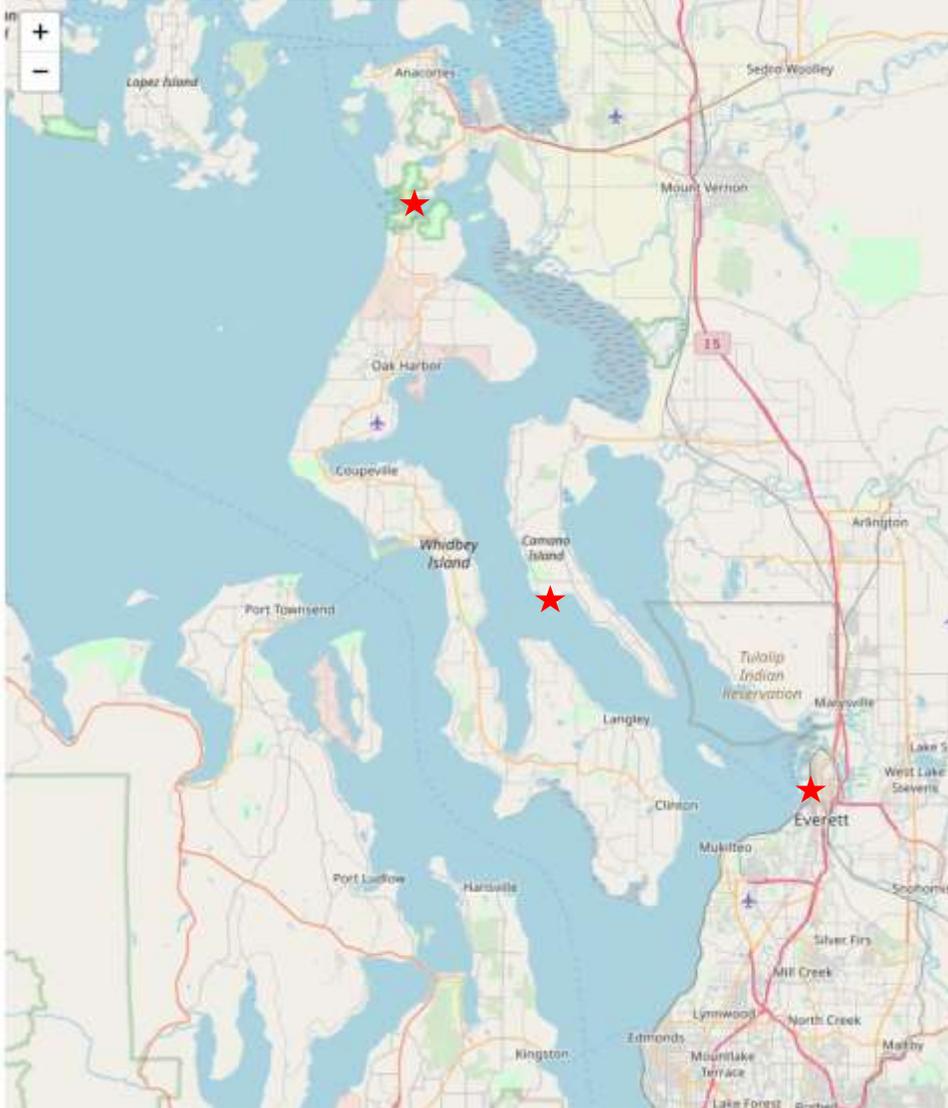


CRAB

3) Test Fishery Summary



4) Average Crab Weight Study Summary



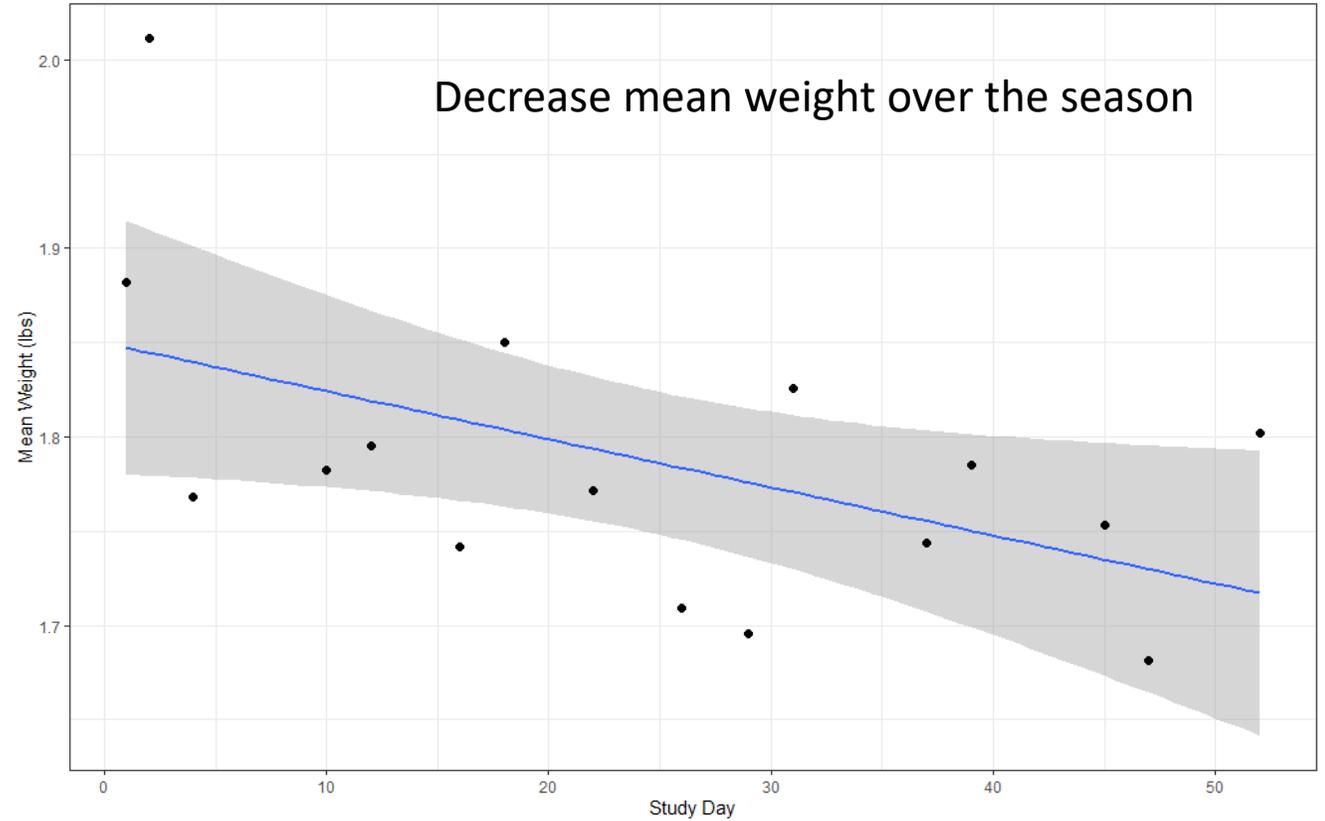
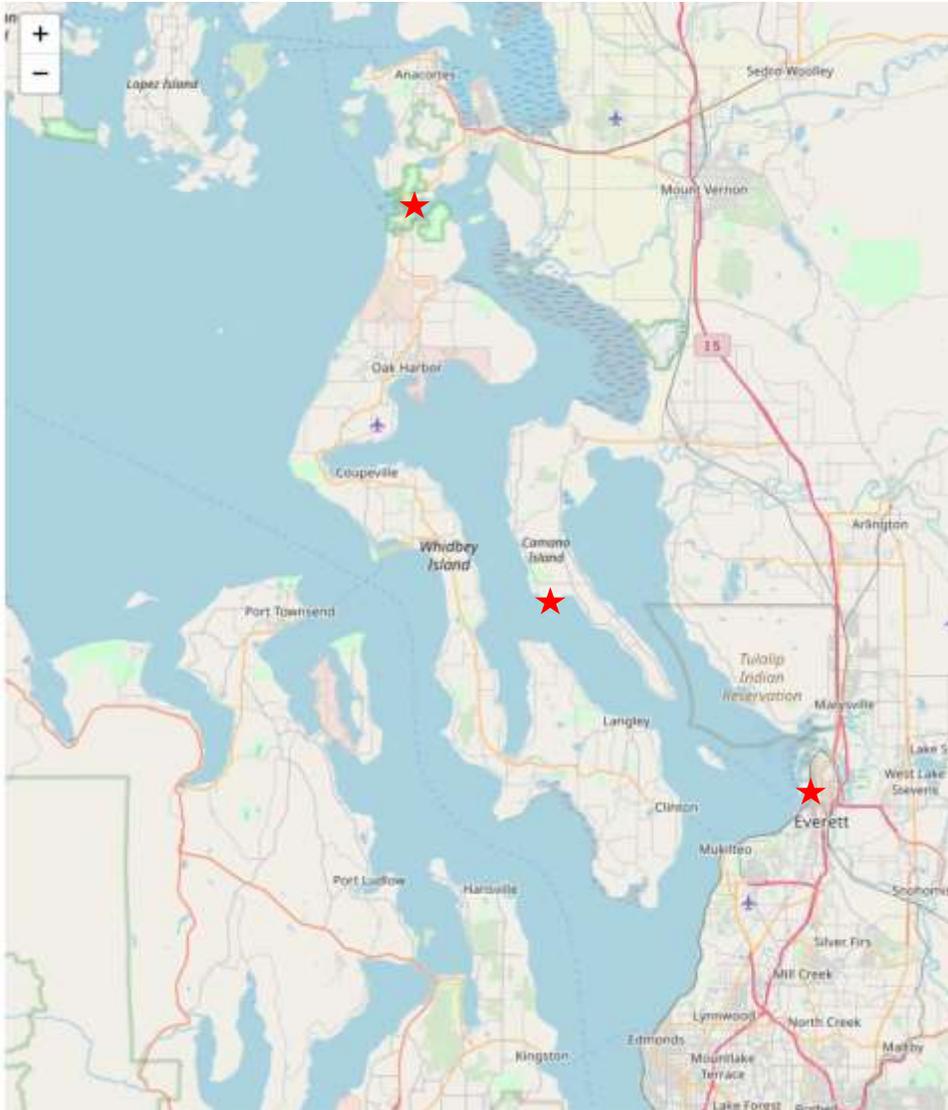
Study Design:

- 16 sampling events from July 1 – Sept 4
- Evenly distributed across 3 locations
 - Randomly distributed by day
- Individual length-weights
- Measure shell hardness
- 943 crab measured / 52 sublegal

	Sample locations		
	Cornet	Camano	Everett
Thursday	1	1	1
Friday	1	1	0
Saturday	2	2	2
Sunday	1	1	1
Monday	1	1	1
Total	6	6	5



4) Average Crab Weight Study Summary



CRAB

4) Average Crab Weight Study Summary

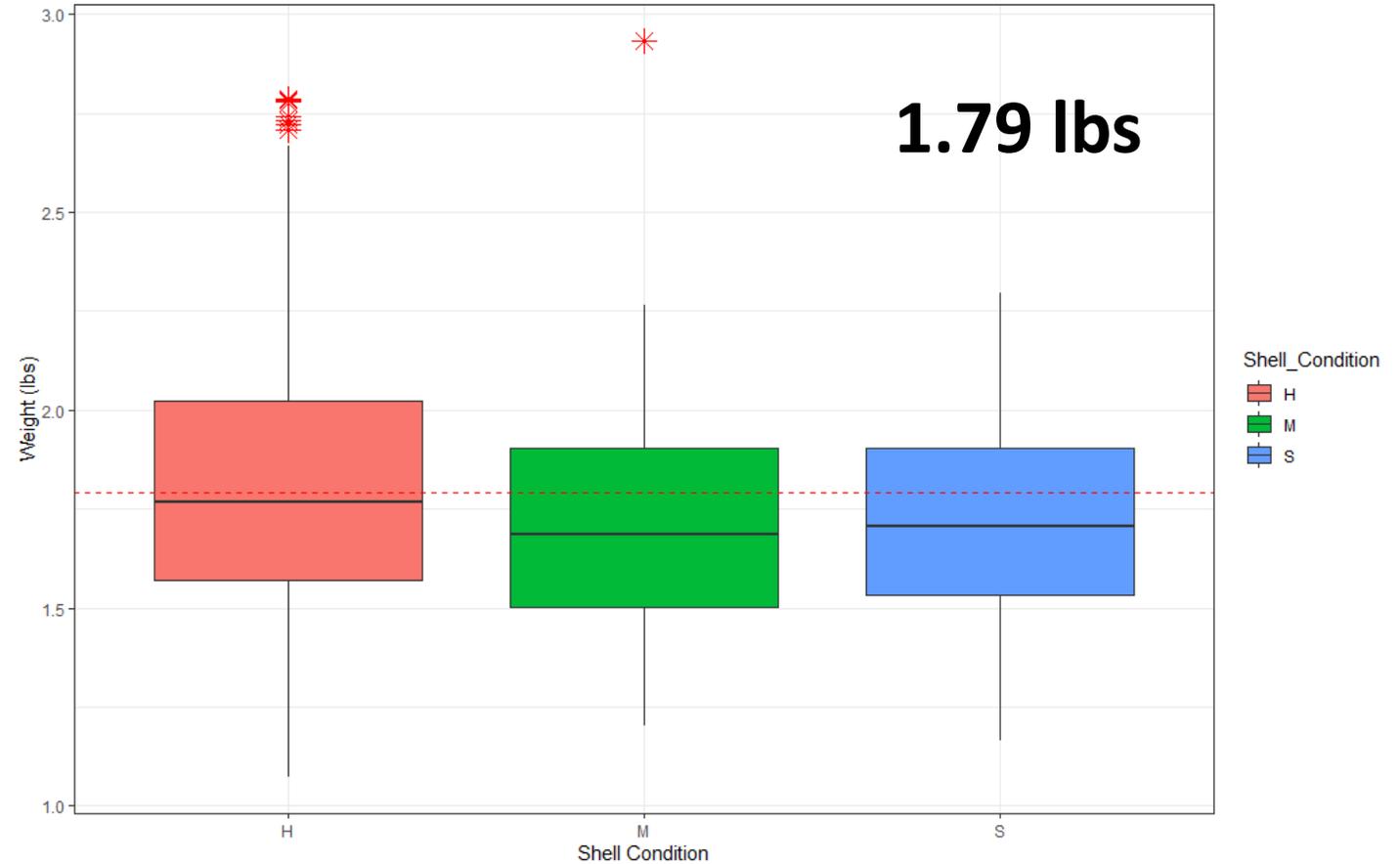
All Crab

Condition	N	% Total	lbs.
Hard	736	78.0	1.81*
Med	55	5.8	1.73
Soft	152	16.1	1.71**

Legal Only

Condition	N	% Total	lbs.
Hard	696	78.1	1.84*
Med	52	5.8	1.75
Soft	143	16.0	1.73**

1.81 lbs



CRAB

7) Summary of 2019 Derelict Gear Program

DATA SNAPSHOT:

- Puget Sound Crab Contacts by enforcement: **1,490**
- Number of days spent pulling gear: **32**
- Enforcement action (Ticket, written warning, arrest, referral to prosecutor) taken on Puget Sound Crab from 07/01 through 09/13: **232**
- Gear Pulled: **1,232 pots**
 - Rec. = **1099**, Tribal = **117**, State Comm. = **2**
- Number of Live crab in Pots: **2,968**
- Percentage of closed season gear pulled by region:
 - Region 6: **26.7%**
 - Region 4: **73.3%**



PLANS 2020

- Continuation of the program at the current level of funding – **At least 2 seasonal technicians**





The Pacific Northwest
Crab Research Group

What is the Pacific Northwest Crab Research Group?

Diverse group of crab researchers and managers from Washington State

- State and tribal co-managers
- Federal agencies
- Academia
- Non-profit organizations



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Mission statement:

To promote sustainable
Dungeness crab
populations in the Pacific
Northwest



Goals of the PNWCRG are to collaborate to:

1. monitor and forecast crab populations to achieve sustainable fisheries in waters of the Pacific Northwest;
2. better understand and sustain the ecological role of crab in waters of the Pacific Northwest; and
3. produce information addressing multiple critical data gaps in crab research and management.



- PNWCRG now includes over 70 individuals
- Since December 2018 the group has seen a high level of enthusiasm and action
- One group project, a statewide light trap study, has already started



Subcommittees

- White paper
- **Light trap**
- Ventless trap
- Dreams of a database group?
- Eventually more new research subcommittees



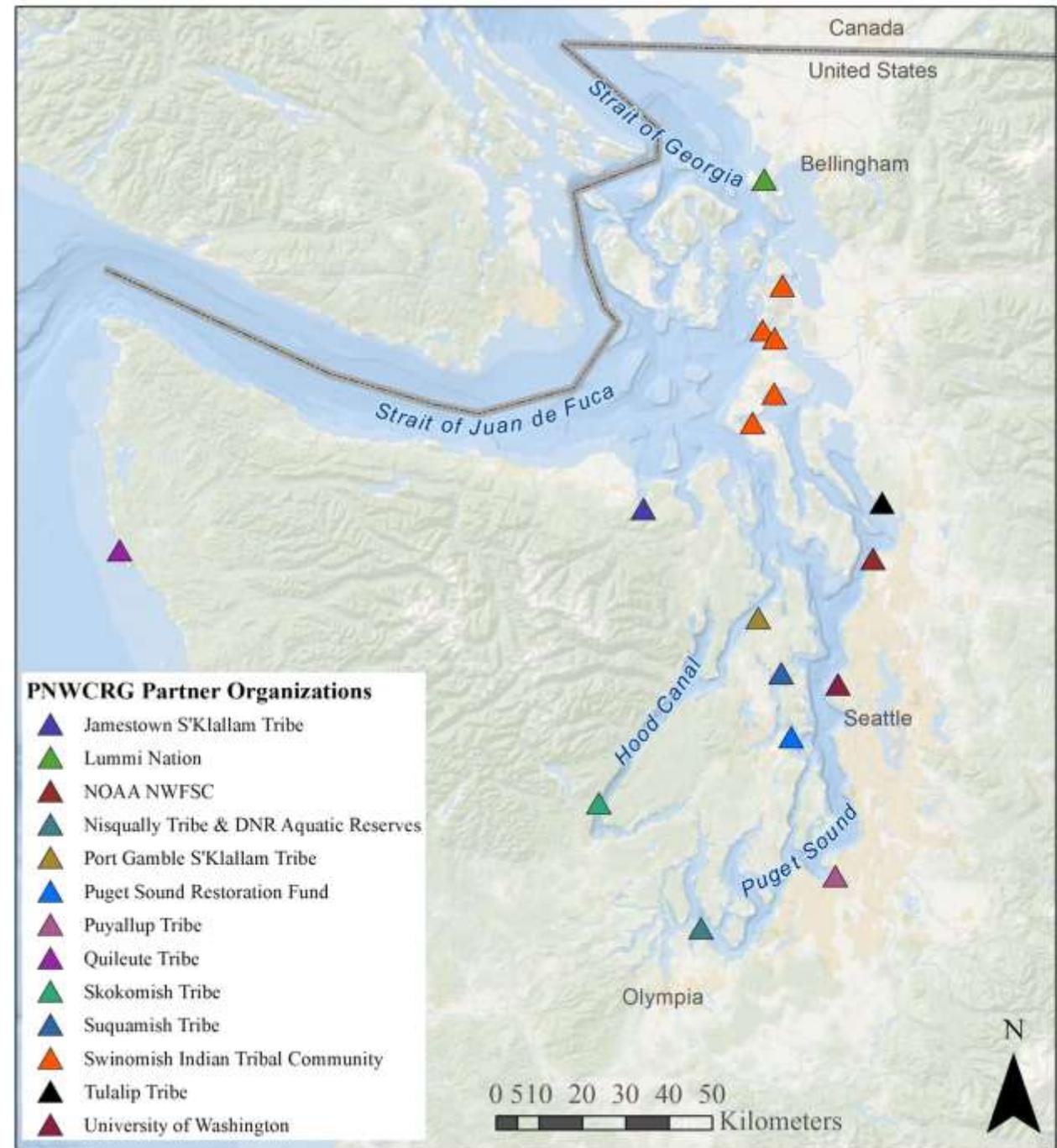
Meet Angela!

- WSG Fellow and program coordinator for one year
- Subcommittee determines Angela's priorities
- Mentors: WDFW, Jamestown, and Swinomish



Light trap network

- 16/17 actually fished?
- 14/16 were standardized design
- Most traps deployed April/May until late August
- Dungeness megalopae caught at all traps but dramatic differences in CPUE



Research priorities

1. Population status and dynamics
 2. Population structure
 3. Land use / climate change impacts
 4. Ecology / food web dynamics
 5. Fishery or industry impacts
- *** Biophysical / ocean conditions



SHRIMP

1) Recreational Catch from 2019 Season

See Handout



SHRIMP

8) Structure for 2020 fisheries

- Area 8-1/8-2
- Area 10



SHRIMP

9) Test Fishery Summary



10) Shrimp Methods Workshop with Tribal Co-Managers

Background:

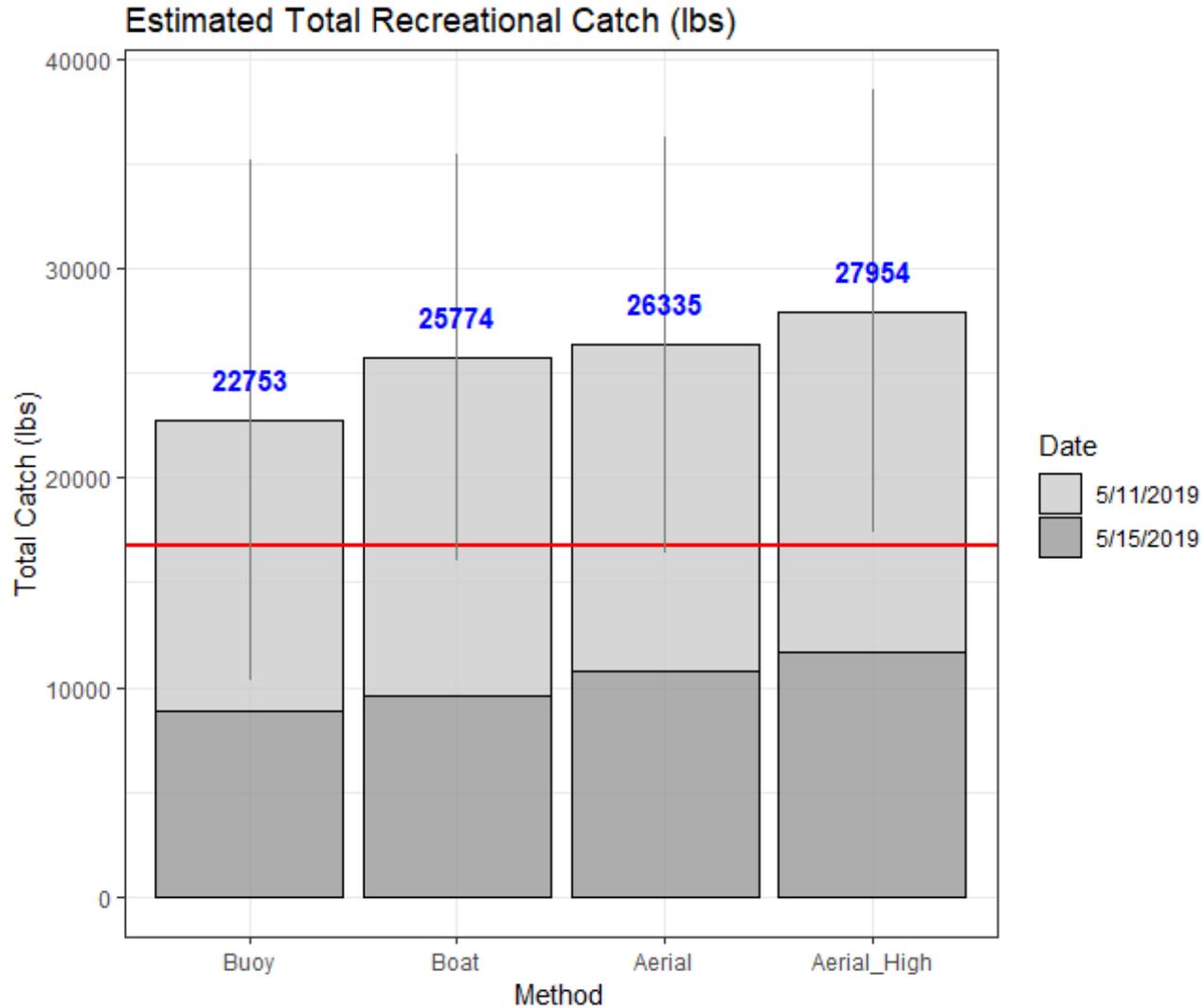
- Tribal co-managers uncomfortable with our methods for estimating recreational shrimp harvest in Area 2E.
- Tribes building a case that boat counts should be used instead of buoy counts for estimating effort
- Tulalip conducted a effort surveys in 2018 and 2019 during state shrimp openers in 2E
 - Aerial boat counts with GoPro Camera and satellite imagery
 - In 2019, WDFW conducted simultaneous assessment of effort via **Vessel-Buoy**, **Vessel-Boat** and **Aerial-Boat** methods



Add airplane pic



10) Shrimp Methods Workshop with Tribal Co-Managers



What to expect for 2020:

- Adjustments to the effort estimation methods
- Creel interview re-vamp
- Potentially aerial surveys
- Use of mounted camera
- Potential collaboration with tribes on research priorities



GENERAL

4) Recreational Rule Simplification Package – *as related to crab & shrimp*

Proposal No. 6: Define a caliper measurement

Short Description: Clarifies regulations regarding the definition of a caliper measurement as a linear measurement when both points of a movable caliper are touching the shell of the shellfish. A fixed caliper gauge is the linear distance between points of the caliper gauge or the diameter of a circular gauge.

Proposal No. 7: Define lawful pot escapement component fibers

Short description: This rule proposal clarifies regulations regarding the definition of lawful fibers which can be used in attaching pot escapement components to shellfish pots.

- Defines other acceptable fiber types for attachment of escapement component to pots as **hemp, jute, or sisal** (in addition to 100% cotton) twine.

Escape cord diameter discussion

- Potentially introduce language that reduces the required diameter of rot cord on pots
- Poll group for support

