

*Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan*

**2025 Implementation Report**

**Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**



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## Introduction

The *Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan* (CMP) was developed to ensure the continued viability and conservation of Chinook salmon, spring Chinook salmon, chum salmon, winter and summer steelhead, and cutthroat trout Species Management Units (SMUs) along the Oregon Coast from the Necanicum River in the north to the Elk River in the south, and to achieve a desired status that provides substantial ecological and societal benefits. The plan also provides a framework for how hatchery salmon and steelhead and fisheries are to be managed. The CMP is consistent with requirements for conservation plans described in the Oregon Native Fish Conservation Policy (OAR 635-007-0502 to 0509) and was approved by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in June 2014.

CMP implementation is also guided by the Climate and Ocean Change Policy (OAR 635-900-0001 to 0020) adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wild Commission in July 2020. To track progress toward plan goals, the CMP calls for annual reports of monitoring information through *Hatchery Program Summaries* and *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*, as well as annual updates on plan implementation. This report summarizes CMP implementation and SMU metrics in 2025.

## Progress Toward Desired Status

Since the adoption of the CMP in 2014, coastal salmon and steelhead have experienced multiple years of severe to extreme drought, marine heat waves (e.g., the [Blob](#)), and periods of poor ocean productivity. These conditions resulted in declines in abundances of coastal salmon and steelhead stocks from recent highs in 2014 and 2015. Coastal hatchery returns have also been adversely affected (see *Hatchery Program Summaries*). This is similar to observations in many other salmon and steelhead stocks throughout Oregon and the Northwest. Population trends vary among species and locations within the SMU, reflecting differences in freshwater habitat conditions, life histories (e.g., time spent rearing in freshwater), and ocean migration patterns. Although many populations have exhibited resilience during this period, returns have been highly variable and some populations have shown concerning trends. Therefore, actions to reduce and buffer risk to wild fish will continue to be necessary in coming years. Summaries of each SMU are provided below, and data and additional details are available in this report's companion *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*.

### *Oregon Coastal Chinook Salmon*

Chinook populations in the Coastal Chinook SMU include early returning (spring or summer) and late returning (fall) adult components. In the CMP, early components, where they occur, are referred to as “spring-run” or “summer-run” Chinook, while the more abundant late components are referred to as “fall-run” Chinook. Two independent populations of spring returning Chinook are called “spring Chinook” (as opposed to spring-run Chinook), and these are considered to be a separate Spring Chinook SMU (see below). Monitoring indicated substantial declines in returns of Oregon Coastal Chinook Salmon populations in the years following CMP adoption. The most pronounced decline occurred in the Coquille population, where the effects of adverse environmental conditions have been exacerbated by non-native fish predators. Overall abundance in the SMU was particularly low in 2018 and 2019, when many populations had at least one year below the critical abundance threshold.

Returns since lows in 2018–2019 have been highly variable from year to year and among populations. In 2025, one population was below the critical abundance threshold (Coquille), one was above desired abundance (Alesia), and the remaining populations were between critical and desired abundance targets

(see *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*). Abundance trends for the early-run components of coastal Chinook populations have varied and ODFW will continue to monitor this run component, where it occurs, as time and resources allow. It should be noted that the CMP's Desired and Critical Abundance thresholds for Coastal Chinook Salmon populations were recalculated in 2019 after significant revisions to the abundance time series on which the thresholds are based. These revised abundance criteria replace the plan's original criteria and are detailed in this report's companion *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*.

#### *Oregon Coastal Spring Chinook Salmon*

Only two independent spring Chinook salmon populations—both in the upper Umpqua Basin—are identified in the CMP. Following several years of decline, the North Umpqua population fell below critical abundance for the first time in 2018. The population increased to levels above critical abundance in 2019–2022 and then fell below the critical abundance threshold again in 2023. In 2024 and 2025, wild spawning escapement was back above critical abundance. In the South Umpqua population, abundance declined more substantially through 2018, and returns have remained low since then. ODFW is concerned about recent low abundance in the South Umpqua and enacted a mark-selective fishery in the mainstem Umpqua River in 2020–2022 and 2024–2025 to protect wild South Umpqua spring Chinook salmon. In the North Umpqua, ODFW is investigating the distribution of hatchery and wild spawners to assess the percentage of hatchery fish on natural spawning grounds (pHOS) more accurately and will implement actions to reduce pHOS if there is spatial overlap on natural spawning grounds above the pHOS limit.

#### *Oregon Coastal Winter Steelhead*

Current monitoring resources do not allow for population-scale assessment of CMP criteria in most of the SMU's constituent populations. Stratum-level abundance trends have varied within the SMU. Abundance in the North Coast stratum was higher than the CMP desired status target in 2023 and 2024, and intermediate between critical and desired abundance in 2025. Abundance estimates for Mid Coast winter steelhead have been intermediate between the critical and desired abundance thresholds for several years, including 2025. Annual abundance estimates in the Umpqua Stratum and North Umpqua population have generally remained closer to or above desired abundances, but were substantially lower in 2025 (although still above the critical abundance threshold). The Mid-South Coast stratum has alternated above and below the critical abundance threshold since 2017, and abundance has remained below the critical abundance threshold for the past three years. Weather and flow conditions hampered spawning surveys in 2025, likely contributing to lower redd counts and abundance estimates, particularly in the Umpqua and Mid-South Coast strata. It should be noted that the CMP's desired and critical abundance criteria for Coastal Winter Steelhead were updated in 2019 to ensure that both the criteria and annual abundance estimates share a common basis for converting redd abundance estimates to fish abundance estimates. These revised abundance criteria replace the plan's original criteria and are detailed in this report's companion *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*.

The CMP pHOS targets for steelhead are assessed as a nine-year moving average. Population-scale estimates of pHOS are not available for most winter steelhead populations; with few exceptions, pHOS can only be assessed at the stratum scale. Nine-year average pHOS estimates for the North Coast and Umpqua strata have been near or below the limits identified in the plans for their constituent populations. However, the Mid Coast and Mid-South Coast strata-level pHOS estimates have been above many of the population-scale limits identified in the plan. Monitoring indicates the nine-year average pHOS is declining toward 10% in the Mid-Coast but has stayed more consistently above pHOS targets in the Mid-

South Coast. In both strata, observations of mark status have been insufficient for confident estimation of pHOS in some years since plan approval. ODFW is evaluating observations from spawning surveys so adaptive management actions can be taken to reduce pHOS within constituent populations if needed.

#### *Oregon Coastal Summer Steelhead*

There are two native populations of Oregon Coastal Summer Steelhead, one in the Siletz River and the other in the North Umpqua River. In 2021, both populations experienced pronounced declines in abundance. Abundance in the North Umpqua population was the lowest in the record dating to 1946, and the count of wild summer steelhead at Siletz Falls (Siletz Population) was similar to previous lows in the record from 1994–2021. Similar declines in summer steelhead returns in 2021 were observed elsewhere in Oregon, likely attributable to poor ocean conditions, and coincided with poor conditions (e.g., drought, high temperatures) for rearing and adult migration in 2021 and several preceding years. Both populations have alternated above and below critical abundance since 2021, with 2024 and 2025 abundance above the threshold in both populations. Available data suggests significant spatial segregation between hatchery and wild spawners in the North Umpqua, but pHOS estimates are likely higher than the CMP target even after accounting for differences in spawning distribution. The North Umpqua summer steelhead program has been eliminated, pending results of litigation, and pHOS is expected to meet the CMP target (9-yr average pHOS  $\leq 10\%$ ) in the future. In 2023–2025, pHOS was below 10%, reflecting the wildfire-related loss of smolts that would have been released in 2021 and reduced releases in subsequent years (see *Hatchery Program Summaries*). No hatchery origin spawners are passed above Siletz Falls in the Siletz Population, and pHOS is expected to be below the CMP's 5% target upstream from the falls.

#### *Oregon Coastal Chum Salmon*

The CMP does not include abundance thresholds for Oregon Coastal Chum Salmon, but abundance of spawners is indexed at a series of standard survey sites. Peak densities on standard surveys have tended to increase through time, with recent declines less pronounced than observed in many other salmon and steelhead SMUs. Peak counts on standard surveys in 2022 were lower than the past several years but increased in 2023–2025 in most population areas, continuing an overall positive trend since the 1990s. Staffing limitations since 2021 have resulted in lower survey effort for chum salmon in some North Coast survey areas.

#### *Oregon Coastal Cutthroat Trout*

As with chum salmon, the CMP does not include specific abundance targets for coastal cutthroat trout. However, abundance of coastal cutthroat trout is indexed and tracked through resting hole counts in the North Coast on surveys for early-run Chinook salmon, and at Winchester Dam on the North Umpqua. Recent resting hole densities in the Wilson, Trask, and Nestucca basins have generally been higher than during the 1980s and 90s, and long-term averages have been stable. Counts in 2025 were near to slightly below average for the period after approval of the CMP. In the North Umpqua, counts of coastal cutthroat trout climbed to post-CMP highs in 2019-20 and 2020-21. Counts declined substantially in the 2021-22 period (21<sup>st</sup> percentile of past 25 years) but counts in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 counting periods increased to approximately average and above average, respectively, for the post-CMP period. The 2024-25 count of wild cutthroat trout at Winchester Dam was the highest since the 1970s.

## Management Actions

To address the limiting factors causing the gap between Current and Desired Status, as well as provide greater population resilience to potential adverse climate change and development impacts, the CMP identifies short- and long-term strategies and actions in four categories (*Hatchery Fish Actions*, *Fishing/Harvest Actions*, *Predation Actions*, and *Habitat Actions*). The following sections provide several implementation highlights for each of those categories in 2025. Many habitat actions are occurring across the SMUs at various scales; a sampling of those actions completed or initiated in 2025 are included in the highlights below. For a more comprehensive summary of implementation since plan adoption, including many ongoing actions that continued in 2025, see reports from previous years [here](#).

### *Hatchery Fish Actions*

- In the Elk River, ODFW continued to implement actions identified in the plan to decrease pHOS and improve the viability of wild **fall Chinook salmon**. Over the past nine years, pHOS in the Elk River has averaged 30%, which is equal to the limit in the plan (see *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*). Additional actions to reduce pHOS are also in progress (see **Research and Monitoring; Evaluation and Adaptive Management**).
- In the Coos Basin, ODFW continued to implement changes to the **fall Chinook salmon** hatchery program that came primarily from results of the 2009-13 Coos Fall Chinook Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Project. Following completion of the Coos M&E Project, fish reared in the West Fork Millicoma River have been transported to the lower estuary for release and contribution to the fishery below Highway 101 to reduce potential pHOS in upper basin spawning areas. ODFW has also implemented later releases of some pre-smolts.

### *Fishing/Harvest Actions*

- In 2025, ODFW implemented the wild **fall Chinook salmon** harvest sliding scale with adaptive management changes (see **Evaluation and Adaptive Management** section for details).
- ODFW implemented the harvest sliding scale for wild **spring Chinook salmon** in the Umpqua basin to determine bag limits for the 2025 spring Chinook fishery (February 1–June 30). Due to low observed and forecasted returns to the South Umpqua, the mainstem Umpqua River was closed to wild spring Chinook salmon harvest in 2025. In the North Umpqua River, wild spring Chinook harvest was allowed with a bag limit of 1 per day and 10 per year. Bag limits for hatchery spring Chinook salmon are not affected by the sliding scale.

### *Predation Actions*

- In 2025, avian hazing efforts occurred in the Nehalem, Tillamook, Nestucca, Alsea, Siuslaw, Coquille, and Coos Bay estuaries.
- Smallmouth bass removal (electrofishing) continued in the Coquille Basin, in partnership with the Coquille Indian Tribe. Striped bass and largemouth bass were also removed when encountered.

- ODFW assisted the Coquille River STEP Association in conducting a derby for the removal of smallmouth bass by anglers. Fish removal was incentivized by the placement of tags in smallmouth bass that could be exchanged for monetary prizes.

### ***Habitat Actions***

- ODFW Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program (WOSRP) habitat restoration biologists in all four CMP strata coordinated, planned, reviewed, and implemented numerous restoration projects in 2025. This was accomplished by coordination with and direct technical support to Watershed Councils, private landowners, other state agencies, federal agencies, and other partners.
- In the North Coast Stratum, ODFW partnered with the Nestucca, Neskowin, and Sand Lakes Watershed Council to treat four streams with large wood (LW) as part of a comprehensive restoration project. The project included placement of LW structures in upper and lower Horn Creek (1.4 miles) and Louie and Baxter Creeks (1.1 miles) in the Nestucca Basin. In the Tillamook Basin, one LW restoration project associated with an Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) timber sale was completed in Elkhorn and Cruiser Creeks (0.75 miles) and three fish passage projects were completed including installation of a new tidegate and bridge (Esther and Flower Pot creeks, respectively) and a new bridge on Myrtle Creek. Several LW projects were completed with partners in the Nehalem Basin including Jetty Creek (Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, 0.52 miles) and Gods Valley Creek and tributaries (Nehalem Bay Watershed Council, 2.15 miles). Additionally, several LW projects were completed with ODF in association with timber sales including Rankin and Buster Creeks (0.88 miles) and Rock Creek (0.25 miles). ODF LW restoration projects commenced on two other streams (Lousignont and Cow Creeks) in the Nehalem Basin in 2025 with work scheduled for completion in 2026. Finally, two fish passage projects were completed in the Nehalem Basin in Clear Creek in partnership with the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council. In the Necanicum Basin, ODFW partnered with the Necanicum Watershed Council to complete a LW project on an unnamed tributary to the Necanicum River (0.34 miles) and a LW and fish passage project on Grindy Creek (0.37 miles).
- In the Mid Coast Stratum, ODFW's habitat restoration biologist completed a LW placement and riparian expansion project on Pataha Creek, a tributary of Wildcat Creek in the Siuslaw Basin. The project entailed the installation of 18 LW habitat structures with a total of 155 logs over 1.2 stream miles. The private landowner in collaboration with the Oregon Wildlife Foundation, ODFW, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council also agreed to expand the current riparian buffer by 75 feet with the planting of a diverse list of native species to promote future large wood recruitment while providing forage for wildlife and pollinator species. During the summer of 2025, the Mid Coast Fish Habitat Restoration Biologist also worked with an extensive list of partners from the Siuslaw Coho Partnership, an OWEB Focused Investment Partnership (FIP), to implement Phase 3 of the Haich ikt' at' uu (formerly Waite Ranch) Tidal Wetland Restoration Project. This phase of the ongoing project restoring 200 acres of a former dairy farm in the Siuslaw River Estuary focused on the construction and installation of a muted tidal regulated Tide Gate that tied into a 1.4 mile long newly constructed levee to protect Hwy 126. Phase 4, slated to commence in the summer of 2026, will re-activate the newly constructed tidal channels and wetland with the removal of the outer legacy levee, allowing

180 acres of the interior project area to become inundated with the tides for the first time in over 100 years.

- In the Umpqua Stratum, ODFW’s Habitat Restoration Biologist worked in partnership with Smith River Watershed Council, Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Coos and Roseburg Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and private landowners to complete 3 fish passage improvement projects, 2 log and boulder instream restoration projects, a beaver dam analog project, and one riparian livestock exclusion fence. The two fish passage projects located in the Smith River basin improved access for multiple anadromous fish species of all life stages to dozens of miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat by removing several 6-foot-high concrete sills and replaced them with an engineered natural fishway. These projects were both on the ODFW Fish Passage Priority List. All fishway projects were built to fish passage standards and replaced undersized corrugated metal pipe culverts with either bridges or large box culverts.
- In the Mid-South Coast Stratum, Charleston District staff provided technical support in the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership with phase 2 implementation of the Big Creek wetland project as well as with post-project monitoring of the Benson Creek project. In the Coos Basin, through the Coos Basin Coho Partnership, three projects in FIP priority watersheds were fully implemented with significant assistance from ODFW habitat and district staff: Millicoma Confluence, Tioga Watershed Restoration and the Anchor Alderwood tidal fish passage project. In the Coquille Basin, working with Coquille Watershed Association and Coos SWCD, ODFW habitat and district staff assisted with the Middle Fork Falls fish passage project and adaptive management and monitoring at four recently completed restoration projects including three in the tidal zone.
- Implementation of the [Private Forest Accord](#) continued in 2025, including the Private Forest Accord Grant Program which funded [restoration projects](#) that will directly benefit CMP species.
- In 2025, ODFW continued implementing the Three-year Action Plan for Beaver-Modified Landscapes ([link](#)) that outlines the goals and strategies ODFW will implement to advance the protection and restoration of beaver habitat and beaver-modified habitat in Oregon.

## Research and Monitoring

[Table A-V: 4](#) of the CMP provides an overview of base monitoring components being conducted within SMUs to track measurable criteria that inform progress toward desired status. Data produced from the monitoring will be used to reassess species productivity, persistence, spatial structure, and diversity every 12 years as called for in the plan. The CMP also identified several critical uncertainties relative to each SMU that require additional research to address ([Appendix V](#)). Research and monitoring developments in 2025 include the following:

- The Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) continued research on **fall Chinook salmon** olfactory imprinting and homing at Elk River Hatchery. This study was designed to test whether Chinook salmon exposed to a naturally occurring odorant during hatchery rearing display higher homing fidelity to their natal hatchery, compared to control fish not exposed as juveniles, when

the same odorant is added to water leading into the hatchery. The experiment was initiated in 2020, replicated in 2021 and 2022, and treated fish will continue returning through 2026. In 2025, researchers and hatchery staff collected coded wire tags from returning adults in the treatment and control groups. This study promises to inform future efforts to reduce straying by hatchery fish in the Elk River and other basins.

- ODFW investigated forecasting methods for **winter steelhead** to allow for more proactive, timely actions in response to population downturns.
- ODFW completed field data collection and began data analysis for a two-year study of hatchery **winter steelhead** straying in the Siletz Basin.
- In coordination with ODFW and STEP volunteers, the Coquille Indian Tribe implemented research on the efficacy of unfed fry releases to boost returns of **fall Chinook salmon** in the Coquille River. A review of the effectiveness of unfed fry releases in the Coquille Basin is one of the management actions identified in the CMP. At the time of CMP approval, the primary purpose of fry releases was harvest augmentation, but the review now has potential conservation applications for the depressed Coquille Chinook population. The research project, initiated in 2022, includes releases in the upper and lower Coquille Basin for comparison purposes, and release numbers have been determined based on study needs and brood availability. Unfed fry are not fin marked and so genetic methods (parentage-based tagging) will be used to determine the origin of unmarked returning adults. In fall 2024, brood availability was not sufficient to meet the needs of the harvest augmentation hatchery program and unfed fry research, and so no unfed fry releases occurred in 2025.
- In coordination with ODFW and the OHRC, the Coquille Indian Tribe and STEP volunteers continued an additional research project on the efficacy of unfed fry releases in the Coos Basin initiated in 2024. The multi-year project will utilize excess broodstock from the **fall Chinook salmon** hatchery program to investigate whether unfed fry releases can increase adult returns (more information is available in the [2024 OHRC Annual Report](#)).
- In June 2025, [Senate Bill 221](#) was passed in support of assessing the use of fish incubation devices as a method for enhancing or recovering **fall Chinook salmon** populations in Coos County. ODFW worked with STEP volunteers on the initial implementation of this bill in late 2025. Additional information on this fall Chinook salmon incubation nursery program will be included in annual reports required by SB 221.
- ODFW partnered with the OHRC to analyze results from a **spring Chinook salmon** radio telemetry study conducted in the North Umpqua River in 2024. Radio tags were placed in wild and hatchery adult spring Chinook in the lower North Umpqua River in April-June 2024, and radio telemetry equipment was used to track their movements through the summer and into their spawning period in September-October. The study provided data about holding and spawning locations, hatchery straying, and fish movement patterns that will inform management of this important population. A report summarizing key findings from the study is in development.

## Evaluation and Adaptive Management

The previously discussed monitoring efforts and subsequent evaluation and adaptive management are important components of CMP implementation. Key evaluation and adaptive management actions that occurred in 2025 include the following:

- ODFW continued to apply the adaptive management changes in the wild **fall Chinook salmon** harvest sliding scale that was adjusted in 2023. These changes were made in response to multiple recent years of critically low fall Chinook salmon returns in some basins, increasing freshwater harvest rates, environmental conditions that have caused abundance forecasts to become more uncertain, and other factors. The adaptive management changes include: 1) reduced bag limits for wild Chinook salmon to ensure populations stay above critical abundance and avoid future closures; and 2) sliding scale bag limits for each river instead of an aggregate bag limit for multiple rivers in a stratum. Rivers within a stratum are no longer showing the same trends, so a river-specific approach is more appropriate.
- In 2025, **fall Chinook salmon** populations in the Coquille River and Elk River were below the CMP critical abundance threshold (based on observed abundance in 2024 and forecasted abundance for 2025) and both rivers were closed to retention of wild Chinook salmon. Fall Chinook salmon abundance in the Umpqua Basin also fell below the critical abundance threshold, and ODFW implemented a limited fall Chinook fishing and retention season with a quota of 500 wild Chinook salmon (see additional details below). ODFW also continued to implement precautionary regulations in several rivers to protect wild fall Chinook salmon, including:
  - Closing North Coast rivers (Necanicum, Nehalem, Tillamook, and Nestucca) to Chinook salmon fishing in December for additional conservation, to preserve broodstock, and maintain regulation consistency.
  - Closing Lake Creek in the Siuslaw Basin to all salmon fishing.
  - Implementing a low flow closure in the Sixes River from the Hughes House Boat Ramp upstream to the mouth of Crystal Creek from October 1–November 3, and closing all angling in the Sixes River from Edson Creek upstream to the South Fork from October 1–December 31.
- In the Umpqua Basin, the average of observed and forecasted **fall Chinook salmon** spawner abundance dropped below the critical abundance threshold for the first time since the CMP was adopted in 2014. Umpqua spawner abundance in 2024 was the lowest observed since the early 1980s, and the 2025 forecast indicated another low return year. In response, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a limited fall Chinook salmon fishing and retention season on the mainstem Umpqua, Smith, and North Fork Smith rivers in 2025. The season was open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays starting July 1 until a quota of 500 wild Chinook salmon was reached. The bag limit was one Chinook salmon (either hatchery or wild) per day and per season. ODFW used the Electronic Licensing System (ELS) and creel surveys to closely monitor the fishery and estimate harvest after each day the fishery was open. The quota of wild fall Chinook salmon was reached on August 16 and the fishery closed at 12:01 am on August 19 (the next day that would have been open to fishing). Based on ODFW’s electronic creel (e-

creel) estimation methods, 634 wild fall Chinook salmon were harvested in the fishery. The quota was exceeded due to a high catch rate on the day the quota was reached. Subsequent monitoring on the spawning grounds showed that fall Chinook salmon returns were much higher than forecasted (see *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*). In several years prior to 2025, fall Chinook salmon returns to the Umpqua Basin were lower than forecasted. Thus, in recent years we have observed how inaccurate forecasts can negatively affect both spawning escapement and fisheries. ODFW plans to conduct a thorough review of the CMP fall Chinook management framework, including forecasting methods, as part of the 12-year assessment that begins in 2026.

- In the Coquille River, **fall Chinook salmon** fishing was allowed for the first time since 2021 due to efforts of the Coquille Indian Tribe, ODFW staff, and extensive community volunteer work to improve the performance of the fall Chinook hatchery program. The Coquille River was open for salmon fishing, including retention of hatchery Chinook salmon and wild coho salmon, from the Highway 101 bridge upstream to the Highway 42S Sturdivant Park Bridge near the town of Coquille from September 13–October 15. Retention of wild Chinook salmon was not allowed, and creel surveys were implemented to monitor the fishery and gain information about Chinook salmon encounters. Although the Coquille Chinook population remains far below the CMP critical abundance threshold, estimated spawner abundance in 2025 was the highest observed since 2017 (see *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*).
- Broodstock availability limited production for the Coquille **fall Chinook salmon** harvest augmentation hatchery program for several years prior to 2022 (see *Hatchery Program Summaries*). Since 2022, ODFW has collaborated with the Coquille Indian Tribe and volunteers to increase broodstock collection. The program collection goal was achieved in 2022 and 2023 and was nearly met in 2024. In 2025, the broodstock collection goal was met, in addition to having sufficient hatchery Chinook returns to provide a fishery in the Coquille River for the first time since 2021 (as described in the previous bullet).
- ODFW and the Coquille Indian Tribe continued implementation of the *Coquille Fall Chinook Conservation Hatchery Program Operational Plan*. In October 2025, the program released 5,667 **fall Chinook salmon** smolts in the North Fork Coquille River. The release was far below the interim program goal (47,000 smolts) because very few wild female Chinook salmon were collected in 2024. Broodstock collection efforts in 2025 also had limited success with only one wild female captured. The first adult returns from the conservation hatchery program may have occurred in 2025, but numbers would have been very low due to the small release for brood year 2022 (1,557 smolts). The first substantial return of adult Chinook salmon from the conservation hatchery program is expected in 2026.
- In the Elk River, a mark-selective fishery for **fall Chinook salmon** was implemented for the sixth consecutive year to maximize hatchery salmon harvest and wild fish escapement as part of ongoing efforts to reduce pHOS.
- In the Coos Basin, where good returns of hatchery **fall Chinook salmon** were expected in 2025, the salmon bag limit was increased from two to three fish (one of which had to be a hatchery salmon) from August 19–December 31, 2025.
- In April 2022, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission decided to eliminate the Rock Creek

(North Umpqua) **summer steelhead** hatchery program. Pursuant to subsequent litigation, no smolt release occurred in 2025 and no production will occur for brood year 2025.

- ODFW implemented a decision support framework for the **summer steelhead** fishery in the Umpqua basin based on in-season monitoring of abundance at Winchester Dam. The framework, first implemented in 2022, is used to determine the likelihood that wild summer steelhead counts will fall below the critical abundance threshold based on in-season counts and historical passage timing at Winchester Dam. In 2025, in-season monitoring indicated that summer steelhead returns would exceed critical abundance and so the fishery remained open under permanent regulations. The final estimate of wild summer steelhead abundance in 2025 exceeded the critical abundance threshold (see *Wild Fish Monitoring Summaries*).
- In 2025, ODFW staff continued to make significant hatchery production adjustments involving multiple facilities to maintain fish production for Umpqua hatchery programs after Rock Creek Hatchery was severely impacted by the September 2020 wildfires. In addition, ODFW initiated adjustments in hatchery production following the closure of Salmon River Hatchery due to budget shortfalls. Production will be moved to other facilities to maintain all current programs, but adjustments in release numbers will occur for some programs due to limited hatchery capacity (additional details available [here](#)).

## Summary

Since finalization of the CMP in 2014, coastal salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout have experienced multiple years of severe drought and poor ocean conditions. The effects of these adverse environmental conditions have been apparent in wild populations and hatchery returns, although the magnitude and timing of effects have varied substantially among populations and SMUs. Recent trends have underscored the importance of implementing plan actions that reduce risk for these populations, as well as the need for robust monitoring and flexible adaptive management. Most populations have demonstrated resilience in recent years, but several populations warrant particularly close attention given recent declines. These populations include summer steelhead in the North Umpqua; spring Chinook in the South Umpqua; fall Chinook in the Coquille and Elk basins; and winter steelhead populations in the Mid-South Coast Stratum.

Implementation priorities for 2026 include the following: 1) closely monitor North Umpqua summer steelhead returns and make any necessary changes in fishing regulations based on monitoring results; 2) continue implementation of the Coquille fall Chinook conservation hatchery program in partnership with the Coquille Indian Tribe and Coquille STEP; 3) continue work with the Coquille Indian Tribe and other partners to reduce bass predation risk for Chinook salmon and other native species in the Coquille River Basin; 4) conduct additional monitoring and evaluation of Mid-South Coast Stratum winter steelhead, including additional spawning ground surveys and summer snorkel surveys in the Sixes Basin; and 5) where pHOS estimates appear to be above plan thresholds, explore details of hatchery fish presence on natural spawning grounds in order to understand adaptive management needs. ODFW will continue to be responsive to variable and changing conditions by implementing meaningful adaptive management actions informed by monitoring.