ODFW Biologist conducting a fish survey

COASTAL MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT — EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JANUARY 2014

ODFW MISSION

TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE OREGON'S FISH AND WILDLIFE AND THEIR HABITATS FOR USE AND ENJOYMENT BY PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CMP – Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan

ESA – Endangered Species Act

HTWG – Habitat Technical Work Group

IMST – Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team

Management Areas – Smaller areas within basins usually corresponding to distinct tributaries within a basin, for the purpose of making hatchery and harvest management decisions at a finer scale than for whole populations

NFCP – Native Fish Conservation Policy

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ODFW – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

OFWC – Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

SMU – Species Management Unit

Stakeholder Teams – Groups of individuals representing diverse interests organized to develop recommended management actions by strata

STEP – Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program

STAC – Salmon and Trout Advisory Committee

Strata – Geographic groupings of fish populations that are considered to have some interaction with each other; there are four strata covered by the CMP

Wild Fish Emphasis Area – Management area in which no hatchery fish are stocked

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has scheduled a series of open houses as an opportunity to share the details of the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) and to obtain public comment. In these open houses, the conservation and management strategies developed by ODFW and Stakeholder Teams convened in four stratums along the coast will be presented. The input received in these open houses, as well as other comments submitted to ODFW, will be used in developing a Proposed Plan for presentation to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) in March 2014.

The schedule of open houses is:

- **January 16 – Salem – ODFW Headquarters, 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem 97302**
- **January 21 – Tillamook – Tillamook County Library Meeting Room, 1716 3rd Street, Tillamook 97141**
- **January 23 – Newport – Best Western Plus Agate Beach Inn, 3019 N. Coast Hwy., Newport 97365**
- **January 27 – Roseburg – Douglas County Library Meeting Room, 1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd., Roseburg 97470**
- **January 28 – North Bend/Coos Bay – North Bend Community Center, 2222 Broadway Street, North Bend 97459**
- **January 29 – Reedsport – Reedsport Community Center 451 Winchester Ave., Reedsport 97467**

All of the open houses are scheduled for 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Interested parties may attend for all or a portion of this timeframe. Refreshments will be provided.

In addition to these open houses, comment on this Public Review Draft may also be submitted by **February 10, 2014** to: http://ODFW.CoastalPlan@state.or.us

Additional comment will be accepted and considered by OFWC up to and including during their public hearings that are anticipated to occur between April and June 2014 to review and potentially adopt the CMP.

For a copy of the full Public Review Draft of the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, as well as more information about the CMP process, please visit:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/coastal_multispecies.asp

INTRODUCTION

Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy (NFCP) requires conservation plans for the state's native fish to help ensure they persist into the future and provide ecological and societal benefits. Plans are developed for groupings of wild fish populations within a species, referred to as a species management unit (SMU). The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is currently implementing conservation plans that have been completed for nearly all federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed fish species (e.g., coastal coho, lower Columbia River Chinook, Willamette River Chinook) and several non-listed species (e.g., Columbia River white sturgeon, south coast Chinook, Rogue River spring Chinook).

The purpose of Oregon's NFCP, adopted in November 2002, is to ensure the conservation and recovery of native fish. The Policy is implemented through the development of conservation plans adopted by the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission (OFWC). The Policy identifies three goals:

1. Prevent the serious depletion of any native fish species by protecting natural ecological communities, conserving genetic resources, managing consumptive and nonconsumptive fisheries, and using hatcheries responsibly so that naturally-produced fish are sustainable.
2. Maintain and restore naturally-produced native fish species, taking full advantage of the productive capacity of natural habitats, in order to provide substantial ecological, economic and cultural benefits to the citizens of Oregon.
3. Foster and sustain opportunities for sport, commercial and tribal fisheries consistent with the conservation of naturally-produced fish and responsible use of hatcheries.

Conservation plans are based on the concept that locally adapted populations provide the best foundation for maintaining and restoring sustainable naturally-produced native fish. Conservation plans illustrate a range of strategies and actions for recovery, fishery opportunities and the responsible use of hatcheries.

This **Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan** (CMP) is being developed by ODFW to address conservation and management of the remaining anadromous salmonids (salmon and trout) on the Oregon coast from Cape Blanco to Seaside. This CMP is unique from other conservation plans in that it addresses six distinct groups of fish species, none of which are listed under the ESA, and it addresses both conservation and utilization of these fish.

In addition to meeting requirements of the NFCP, the CMP provides long-term management direction for species which are relatively healthy to ensure they remain so. CMP management direction is intended to help ensure the continued existence of wild fish and the fisheries which wild and hatchery fish support.

CMP GOALS

- Ensure long-term sustainability of wild salmon and trout at levels that will support robust fisheries and ecological, economic, and cultural benefits for present and future generations.
- Maintain the current number of coastal fish hatcheries and, with appropriate transition periods, roughly balance the expansion of some hatchery programs to increase fishing opportunity and the reduction of some programs or stocked locations to reduce risk to wild fish.
- Maintain and expand fishing opportunity for wild fish based on retention and non-retention fishing, given species status and social preferences.
- Balance hatchery programs and fishing opportunity with wild fish conservation by accepting higher risk to wild fish in some locations and lower risk in other locations based on wild fish range, diversity and productivity.
- Avoid additional ESA listings and ad-hoc species-by-species, basin-by-basin, and year-by-year management.
- Provide certainty to interested parties for how wild and hatchery-produced fish will be managed by ODFW.

Proposed changes to current management programs are limited because the coastal populations of wild and hatchery salmon, steelhead, and trout, as well as the fisheries they support, are relatively healthy. While changes to conservation and fishing opportunities are relatively small at the coastal and regional scales, they are expected to positively enhance both wild fish conservation and fishing opportunities. These management changes are intended to balance known and potential risks to wild fish populations and to hatchery operations with the social, economic, and cultural values of wild and hatchery fish.

KEY CMP OUTCOMES

- Reduced overall conservation risk from harvest and hatchery programs.
- Enhanced overall fishing opportunities.
- Relatively stable hatchery fish production levels.
- Identification of wild fish emphasis areas to complement areas with a higher emphasis on hatchery fish.
- Simplified angling regulations.
- Improved data collection for future decision-making.
- Strategies to better understand and manage salmon predators.
- Support for prioritized and effective habitat restoration efforts.
- Stronger recognition of the role that fisheries supported by wild and hatchery fish play in coastal economies.
- Reinvigorated emphasis on the Oregon Hatchery Research Center and its role identifying ways for hatcheries and hatchery fish management to reduce risk to wild fish and increase fishery contribution.

PLAN SCOPE

The CMP addresses salmon, steelhead, and trout in coastal basins from the Elk River near Cape Blanco in the south to the Necanicum River near Seaside in the north. Management direction for salmon and trout in the Rogue and other south coast rivers is provided by other conservation plans and these locations are not covered in this CMP. While a separate conservation plan for coastal coho salmon was adopted by the OFWC in 2007, information for coho (which is widely distributed across the planning area) is included to provide a more complete understanding of the fish species inhabiting the CMP area. The CMP's geographic area, general basin boundaries, and strata (i.e., groupings of populations) are depicted in Figure 1.

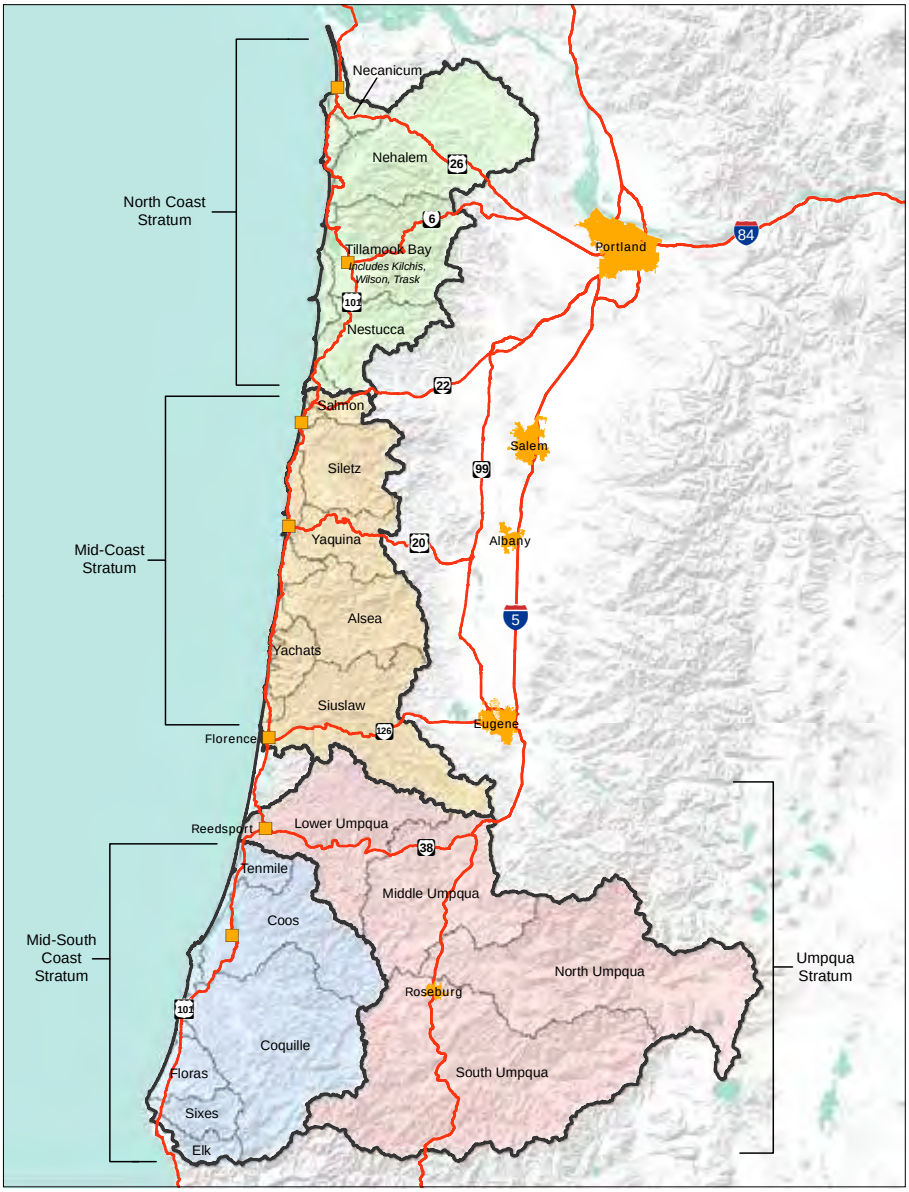

Figure 1. Map of CMP planning area and basins

SPECIES ADDRESSED IN THE CMP

- *Coastal Chinook Salmon*
  Distributed across the entire coastal area; includes some populations with an early return component (i.e., spring-run or summer-run) originating in the Coast Range.
- *Coastal Spring Chinook Salmon*
  Limited distribution across the planning area, with only two distinct populations of wild fish in the upper Umpqua River that originates in the Cascade Range.
- *Coastal Chum Salmon*
  While present in a number of basins, substantial numbers are limited to a few basins (e.g., Nehalem, Tillamook, and Yaquina); presumed to have had a wider and more abundant distribution historically but the extent is not known.
- *Coastal Winter Steelhead*
  Distributed across the entire planning area.
- *Coastal Summer Steelhead*
  Limited distribution across the planning area, with only two wild fish populations (North Umpqua and Siletz).
- *Coastal Cutthroat Trout*
  Distributed across the entire planning area.

Each of the species within the planning area exhibits significant differences in its life history. These species reside in freshwater, estuaries, and the ocean for different periods; migrate to vastly different ocean areas; and mature at different ages. These and other traits affect the resilience and productivity of each species and may explain differences between current and historical abundance. Understanding these differences is also critical in developing effective management and restoration programs. Historical and current context for the status, management direction, and limitations associated with these species are illustrated in Figures 2 to 7.

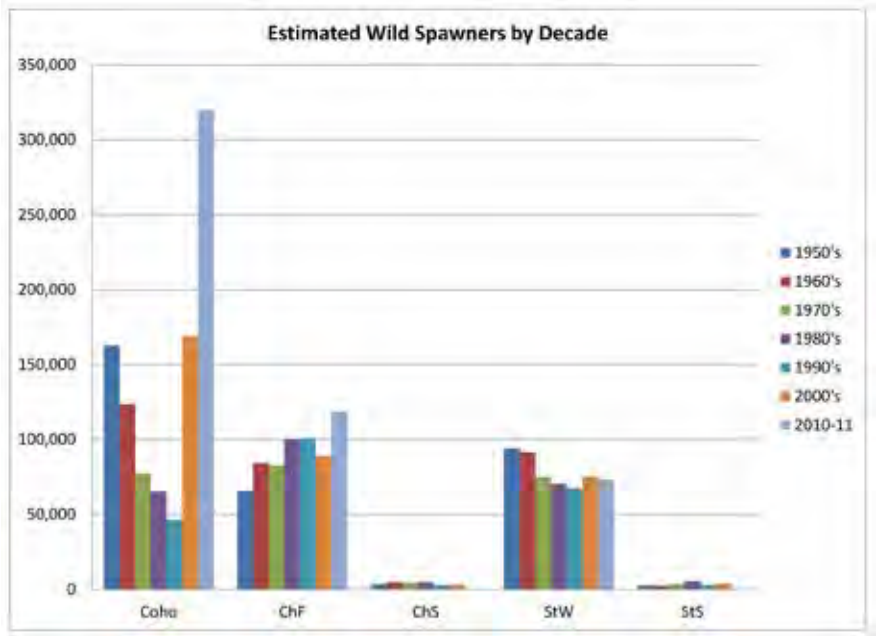

Figure 2. Estimated wild spawner abundance by decade

NOTE: Spring Chinook and summer steelhead abundances are from Winchester Dam counts only

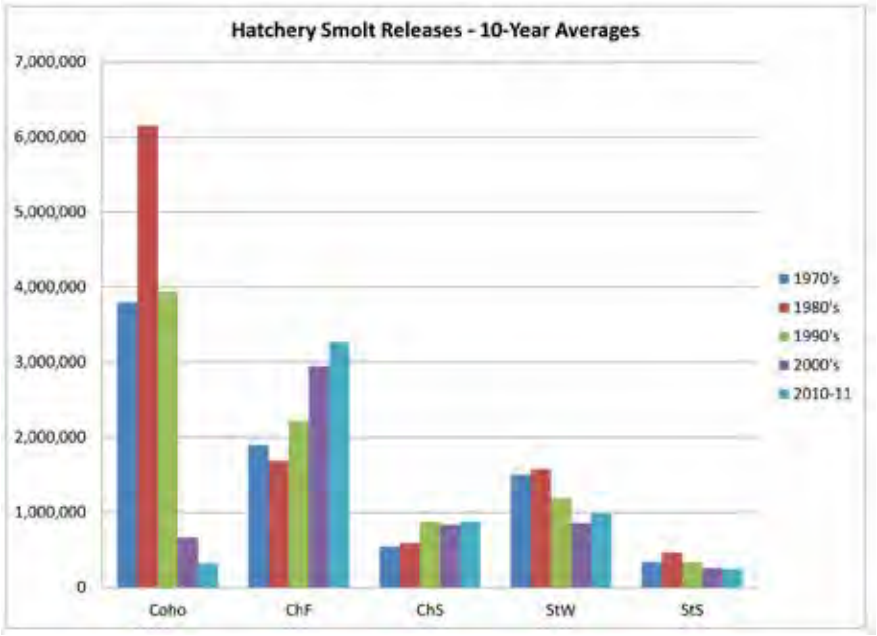

Figure 3. Smolt releases through time

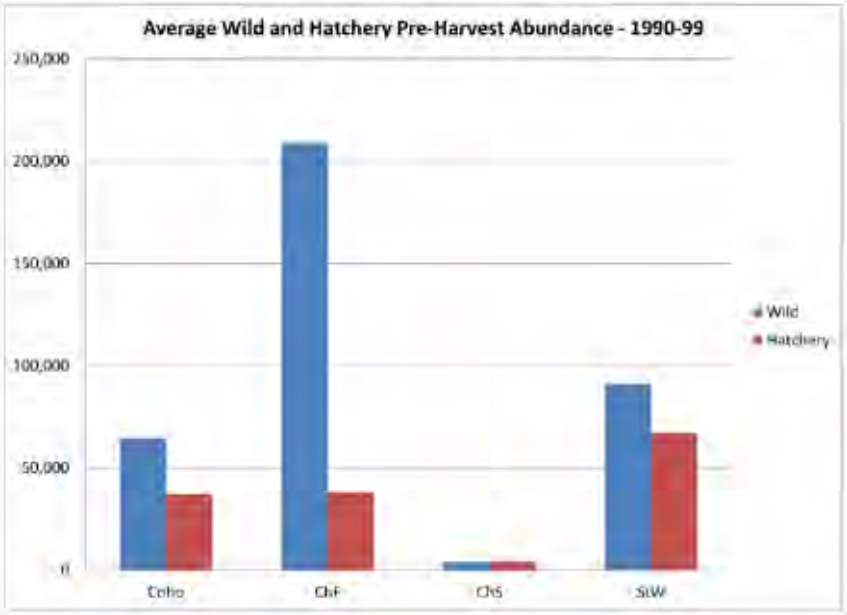

Figure 4. Pre-harvest abundance in the 1990's for hatchery and wild fish

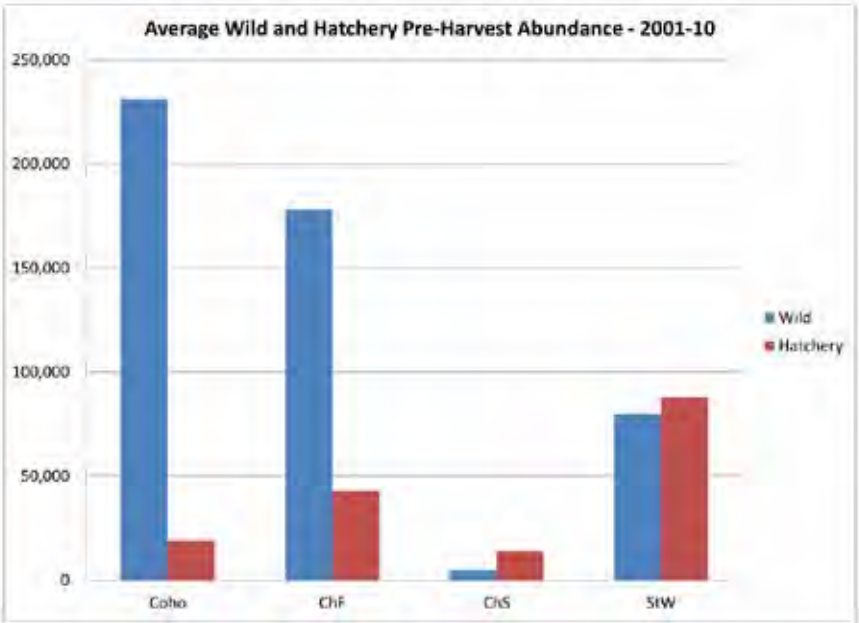

Figure 5. Pre-harvest abundance in the 2000's for hatchery and wild fish

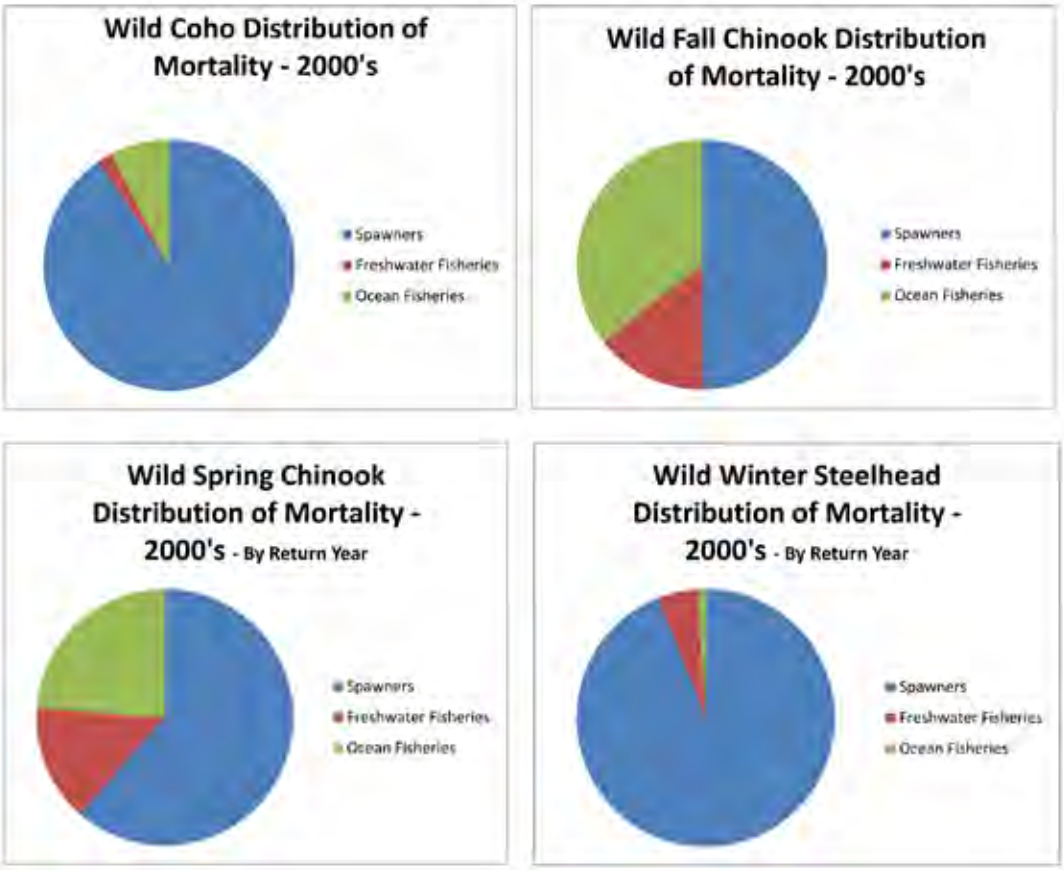

Figure 6. Distribution of mortality in the 2000's for wild coho (by brood year), fall-run Chinook (by brood year), spring Chinook (by return year), and winter steelhead (by return year)

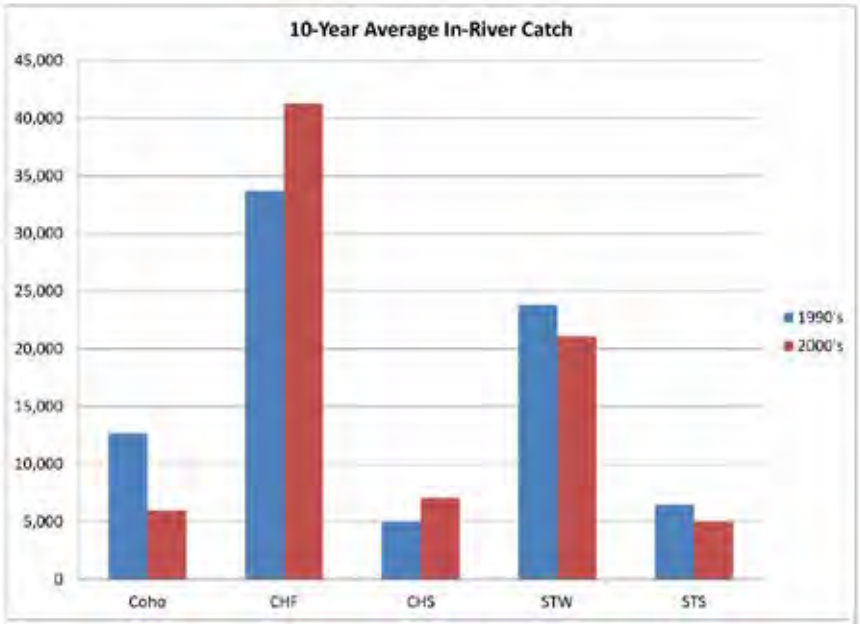

Figure 7. In-river catch in the 1990's and 2000's for hatchery and wild fish combined

WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THE CMP

- Six distinct groups of fish species are addressed, none of which are listed under the ESA.
- With the exception of chum, the conservation status and fishing opportunity for each species are strong and not in "crisis mode."
- Through a portfolio approach, conservation and utilization of these fish are balanced across both strata and the overall planning area.
- Proposed management actions have been developed by ODFW and Stakeholder Teams organized at a stratum level and representing diverse interests.
- Anglers and guides are enlisted to provide ongoing data for use in management.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

A multi-faceted public process is being used to prepare the CMP, with the development of recommended management actions led by four Stakeholder Teams organized by stratum and generally operating by consensus. In addition to the Stakeholder Team process, plan development has been informed by Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) groups and the Salmon and Trout Advisory Committee (STAC), a scientific opinion survey, habitat experts, and an independent science team (i.e., the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team [IMST]).

To expedite CMP development, the standard conservation planning process was modified in several key ways:

- Prior to circulating a draft plan for public review, a focused Stakeholder Team process (as described below) was used to develop a portfolio of management actions that on balance could be expected to have general support of constituent groups. Stakeholder Team members were expected to serve as liaisons with their representative groups to help avoid surprises and misunderstandings associated with release of the Public Review Draft.
- Rather than starting with a "blank slate," information on Current Status and preliminary management actions was drafted by ODFW for review, reaction and recommended modification by the Stakeholder Teams.
- In lieu of a series of monthly or bi-monthly meetings, initial Stakeholder Team meetings in each of the four stratum were compressed into a short period of time (two or three consecutive days), moving from one stratum to the next. Later Stakeholder Team meetings were combined into north and south coast strata to facilitate cross-strata communication and reduce demands on staff and Stakeholder Team members.

Key participants and steps in the planning process included:

- Four volunteer stratum ***Stakeholder Teams*** were formed by ODFW to provide feedback on draft management actions and other CMP elements. The Stakeholder Teams represent a range of coastal interests including watershed councils, conservation groups, STEP members, fishing guides, angler groups, commercial fishers, resource producers, local governments, Native American tribes, and the public-at-large. Non-voting state and federal natural resource agency staff also participated on the Stakeholder Teams.

  The Stakeholder Teams met four times during CMP development, including: two orientation sessions in August 2012 to explain expectations and ground rules for participation in the planning process, review the current status of the six species addressed, and identify management issues to be addressed; an initial round of workshops by stratum in September-October 2012 to develop CMP goals and Operating Assumptions, and identify preliminary management actions; combined stratum meetings in June-July 2013 to review a draft "strawman" portfolio developed by ODFW; and combined stratum meetings in September-October 2013 to review the Department's recommendations for a balanced portfolio. After considerable discussion and compromises among different interests, an adjusted portfolio of management actions was generally approved by consensus of all four groups for general public review.

- Formed by ODFW to provide initial feedback on habitat components and strategies in the CMP, two meetings of ***Habitat Technical Work Groups*** (HTWG) were conducted in November 2012 to receive input on what analyses the CMP should include to help prioritize habitat actions and projects and to identify what other habitat assessments and prioritizations are already in use. Members included Stakeholder Team representatives, watershed councils and land managers.

- ODFW contracted the Survey Research Center at Oregon State University to conduct a scientific ***Opinion Survey*** of the general public (1,500 surveys mailed; 28.5% response rate) and licensed anglers west of the Cascades (6,000 surveys mailed; 36% response rate). Both groups generally supported efforts to conserve wild salmonoids while allowing limited harvest.

- The ***Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team*** (IMST) is a scientific review panel charged with advising the State of Oregon on matters of science related to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. IMST provided a comprehensive review of the CMP, with numerous suggestions but no formal recommendations.

- ODFW seeks broad involvement and input from the ***General Public*** on the CMP, with ongoing public information about its development and opportunities for comment via a website (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/coastal_multispecies.asp), an e-mail distribution list, meetings with interested groups and individuals, public open houses, a formal public comment period, and participation in OFWC proceedings.

The public review process is ongoing with public open houses and other opportunities to comment on this Public Review Draft (see inside cover and last page for details). Following this public review, the CMP will be revised and presented to the OFWC for review and potential adoption.

SUMMER 2012	FALL 2012	SUMMER 2013	FALL 2013	WINTER 2014	SPRING 2014	2014-2026
■ Stakeholder Teams established. ● Review of current Status. ● Identification of manage-ment issues.	■ Stakeholder Team stratum workshops. ● Consensus on Goals and Operating Assumptions. ● General agreement on preliminary management actions. ■ HTWG workshops.	■ Opinion survey. ■ Stakeholder Team combined stratum meetings to respond to preliminary draft CMP. ■ IMST review.	■ Proposed balanced portfolio. ■ Stakeholder Team combined stratum meeting with consensus on an adjusted portfolio.	■ Public Review Draft CMP. ■ Public open houses. ■ Public comment period. WE ARE HERE	■ Presentation of Proposed CMP to OFWC. ■ Public hearings. ■ Adoption by OFWC.	**CMP Implementation**

Figure 8. CMP process

PLANNING CONTEXT

The CMP is being developed at a time when the conservation status of most coastal salmon, steelhead, and trout is not in decline, and there are fishing opportunities for wild and/or hatchery fish in the vast majority of coastal basins. This is not to say that either the fishing or the conservation status of all species in the Oregon coastal area is considered optimal. The CMP evaluates the current status of six salmonid species in the Oregon Coastal area, establishes the desired status for each, and presents a portfolio of management actions intended to address limiting factors causing gaps between current and desired status. Operating Assumptions developed by ODFW and affirmed the Stakeholder Teams provided a framework for development of management actions.

OPERATING ASSUMPTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- With the probable exception of chum, species status and fishing are not in a crisis mode, although virtually all species are likely to be at less than 25% of historical abundance.
- A Portfolio approach will be implemented to identify areas subject to different emphases on wild fish, hatchery fish, and fishing opportunity.
- Overall, CMP implementation will decrease conservation risk and improve fishing opportunity.
- Hatcheries and harvest create a conservation risk but are important components of fishing opportunity and the coastal economy.
- New or expanded monitoring, research, and hatchery programs will require new funding for implementation.
- Predation by marine mammals and birds represents risk to conservation and fishing.
- Watershed functions supporting production of native salmonids are reduced from historical conditions. Given existing infrastructure (e.g., watershed councils) and programs established by the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds for habitat restoration, the CMP does not identify site-specific habitat limiting factors and actions, but encourages and supports their prioritization and implementation.
- Evaluation of CMP implementation will require adaptive management given environmental variation and monitoring imprecision, as well as time-lags created by each species' life cycle.

PORTFOLIO APPROACH

As noted, a Portfolio approach is used to identify hatchery and harvest actions across different locations and SMUs. This approach is characterized by assigning different management emphases to different locations to balance conservation and fishing opportunity across strata and the planning area.

In applying a Portfolio approach, the CMP considers cumulative interactions of hatchery programs and fisheries; species' productive capacity; options to accept higher risk to wild fish in some locations; options to establish management areas with different hatchery emphasis; and modifications to existing harvest boundaries to protect spawning fish.

The Portfolio of management actions represents a pragmatic combination of the best available science, conservation needs for wild fish populations, fishing opportunity for recreational and commercial anglers, management tradition, political and social desires, and limitations relative to new initiatives.

CURRENT AND DESIRED STATUS

CURRENT STATUS

Overall, the conservation message resulting from the Current Status Assessment contained in the CMP is positive:

- With the exception of chum salmon, all SMUs are currently viable and healthy, although not necessarily at historical abundance levels.
- Chum salmon are a species of concern, based on limited data and poor understanding of their status.
- Out of 64 populations assessed in the CMP, there are only three non-viable populations – Elk River Chinook, South Umpqua River spring Chinook, and Netarts River chum.
- Some caution is warranted for all Coastal SMUs given data gaps, inconsistent status indicators, or naturally-limited ranges for spring Chinook and summer steelhead.
- The combination of wild and hatchery fish currently supports diverse and robust fisheries.

DESIRED STATUS

The CMP identifies the Desired Future Status for its six SMUs as:

- Improved overall conditions for all wild salmon, steelhead, and trout populations across the Oregon coast (specific abundance, productivity, persistence, and distribution goals are identified in the CMP) in order to safeguard against potential changes in ocean conditions and climate, ensure that they provide increasing societal benefits and fishing opportunities, and strengthen the security of species with limited range.
- Actions are taken to ensure that non-viable populations become viable.
- The abundance and productivity of all populations are increased to improve fishing opportunities and as a hedge against uncertainty, limited distribution, and potential threats.
- Chum distribution is protected and expanded, and its historical population structure identified.
- Adequate data are obtained to fill knowledge gaps, reconcile inconsistent information, and improve management effectiveness.

Achieving the Desired Status goals will be difficult, require time, and is by no means certain. However, efforts to achieve these goals are viewed as crucial to maintaining the sustainability of Oregon's wild anadromous salmon and steelhead populations and the fishing opportunities associated with them.

LIMITING FACTORS

To make the improvements necessary to progress from the Current Status to the Desired Status identified in the CMP, Limiting Factors are addressed in four management categories:

Hatchery Fish

- Hatchery fish represent a significant risk factor for two Chinook populations – Elk River and Salmon River – which have popular hatchery programs that support and provide information for inter-jurisdictional ocean fisheries and popular river fisheries. Risk is primarily from high proportions of hatchery fish on spawning grounds.

Harvest

- Given intensive ocean and tributary fisheries, harvest is identified as a risk for Chinook and spring Chinook, which may be harvested at overall rates exceeding 50%. Harvest impacts to other SMUs are limited because of lower harvest levels.

Predation

- Non-native fish, marine mammals, and birds consume salmon and trout; this predation is a significant factor affecting fishing opportunity and hatchery releases. A better understanding of where and how much predation is occurring and how it can best be controlled within legal management limitations is required to ensure the conservation of wild and hatchery salmon and trout.

Habitat

- Habitat is the most common limiting factor across all species and locations, with the loss of estuarine, wetland, side-channel, floodplain, and instream (e.g., large woody debris, gravel, boulders, sinuosity) habitat being prevalent in all basins.
- Decreased water quality (e.g., temperature, sedimentation) and passage barriers are also limiting factors for salmon and trout.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The CMP identifies management strategies and actions in four categories to address the Limiting Factors above and to meet CMP goals: Managing Hatchery Fish; Managing Harvest Rates; Understanding and Managing Predation; and Restoring Habitat.

MANAGING HATCHERY FISH

Interactions with hatchery fish present a risk to wild fish in the form of genetic interaction, competition, predation, and predator attraction. These risks vary on a case-by-case basis and are generally managed successfully in most of the coastal planning area. Hatchery fish are also a very important component of fisheries. Increases, consolidations and reductions in hatchery fish programs in a few different locations are proposed to both reduce overall conservation risk and improve fishing opportunity. Proposed modifications across the entire coastal area are modest, recognizing that fishing is generally good and current hatchery practices are managing most conservation risks effectively. The CMP recognizes the important role of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center in helping better understand and manage hatchery risks.

An important aspect of the CMP is that it accommodates both "wild fish emphasis areas" and hatchery programs, providing a level of certainty about hatchery management into the foreseeable future. This portfolio approach includes hatchery program modifications in different areas based on conservation risk and fishing opportunities intended to meet Desired Status and fishing opportunity objectives. The resultant overall mix of fishing opportunities is generally similar to current opportunities, with new opportunities for spring-run salmon. Changes from current programs represent significant compromises among Stakeholder Team interests and are summarized below. They are also detailed in Tables 1 and 2 and illustrated in Figures 9 to 11.

- Hatchery programs are important for providing fisheries on the coast, so overall production is increased slightly from 6 million to 6.3 million hatchery fish released per year.
- To further reduce the conservation risk from hatchery fish, the number of locations stocked is reduced slightly (from 26 to 25 of the 50 total Management Areas) and the number of hatchery programs is also reduced slightly (from 39 to 36). To maintain or enhance the overall fishing opportunity, increases in stockings of nearby Management Areas and/or new harvest opportunities on wild fish within the Management Area are proposed.
- Relatively minor changes are made in the overall release numbers of Chinook, winter and summer steelhead, and coho.
- Releases of spring-run Chinook are significantly increased, with several new experimental programs to determine fishery contribution and impacts to wild populations in areas without naturally occurring spring-run life history variants (Yaquina Bay and Coos Bay).
- No programs for chum or coastal cutthroat trout currently exist or are proposed.
- In conjunction with other actions, a reduction in production of fall-run Chinook in Elk River from 325,000 to 275,000 is intended to improve the conservation status (currently non-viable) by reducing hatchery strays on spawning grounds (currently >60%).

Table 1. Current and Proposed Hatchery Programs in the CMP Planning Area

	Number of Smolts/Pre-Smolts Stocked			Number of Hatchery Programs	
	Current	Proposed	% Change	Current	Proposed
Stratum					
North Coast	1,413,000	1,625,000	+ 15%	15	13
Mid Coast	570,000	640,000	+ 12%	7	7
Umpqua	1,157,000	1,187,000	+ 3%	6	6
Mid-South Coast	2,854,000	2,853,000	- 0.04%	11	10
Total	5,994,000	6,305,000	+ 5%	39	36
SMU					
Coho	260,000	260,000	0%	3	3
Fall-Run Chinook	3,501,000	3,433,000	- 2%	10	9
Spring Chinook	797,000	1,172,000	+ 47%	4	6
Winter Steelhead	1,091,000	1,125,000	+ 3%	18	15
Summer Steelhead	345,000	315,000	- 9%	4	3
Total	5,994,000	6,305,000	+ 5%	39	36

Table 2. Proposed Hatchery Management Changes by Portfolio and Stratum

Stratum	Conservation Portfolio	Fishing Opportunity Portfolio
North Coast		CHF release in Trask River increased by 37,000
		CHS release in Nestucca River increased 90,000
		New CHS release of 30,000 in Lower Nestucca River
	40,000 STW in Kilchis River shifted to Wilson and Nestucca rivers	STW release in Wilson River increased by 10,000
		STW release in Nestucca River increased by 30,000
	125,000 CHS in Wilson River shifted to Trask River	CHS release in Trask River increased by 125,000
		In addition to shift from Wilson River, CHS release in Trask River increased by 55,000
	30,000 STS in Wilson shifted to Nestucca River	STS release to Nestucca River increased by 30,000
	Unfed fry (CHF and CHS, Trask and Nestucca rivers) phased out	Unfed fry program converted to smolt production
Mid-Coast		New CHS release of 100,000 in Yaquina Bay
	STS release in Siletz River reduced by 30,000	
	20,000 STW in Big Elk Creek shifted to Alsea River	STW release in Alsea River increased by 20,000
Umpqua		STW release in South Umpqua River increased by 30,000 after current production goals are met
Mid-South Coast	20,000 STW in East Fork Coquille River shifted to South Fork Coquille River	STW release in South Fork Coquille River increased by 20,000
	100,000 CHF in West Fork Millicoma River shifted to Coos Bay	CHF release in Coos Bay increased by 100,000
		New CHS release of 100,000 in Coos Bay
		STW release in Tenmile Creek increased by 4,000
	CHF release in Coquille River reduced by 55,000	
	CHF release in Elk River reduced by 50,000	

Notes: CHF = fall-run Chinook, CHS = spring-run Chinook, STW = winter steelhead, and STS = summer steelhead

Blank cells indicate no corresponding change in either the conservation portfolio or the fishing opportunity portfolio.

See the CMP for additional hatchery program details and actions.

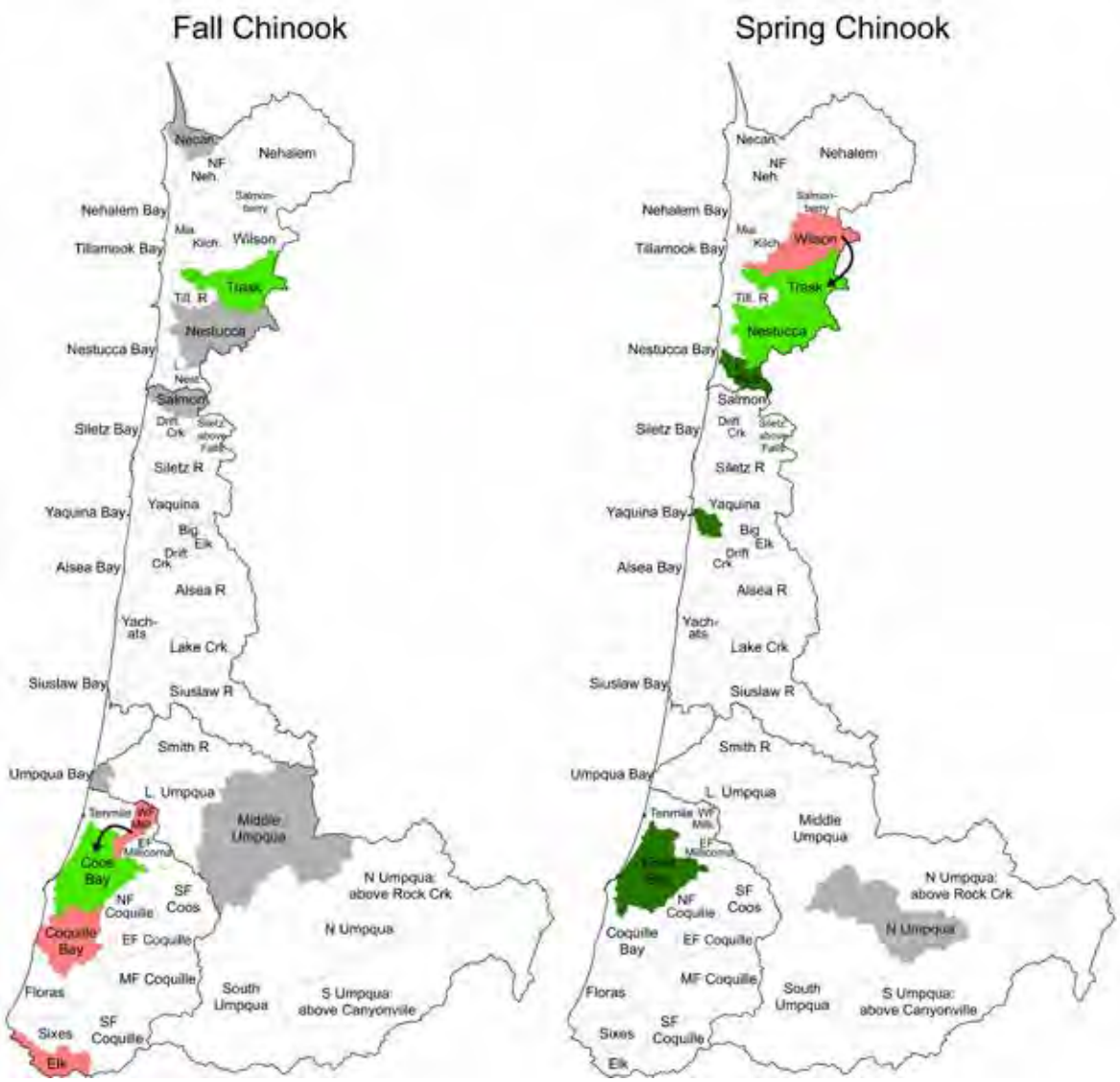

Figure 9a. Hatchery program changes by species (gray= no change; dark green=new hatchery program; light green=current program increased; red=current program reduced or shifted (arrows))

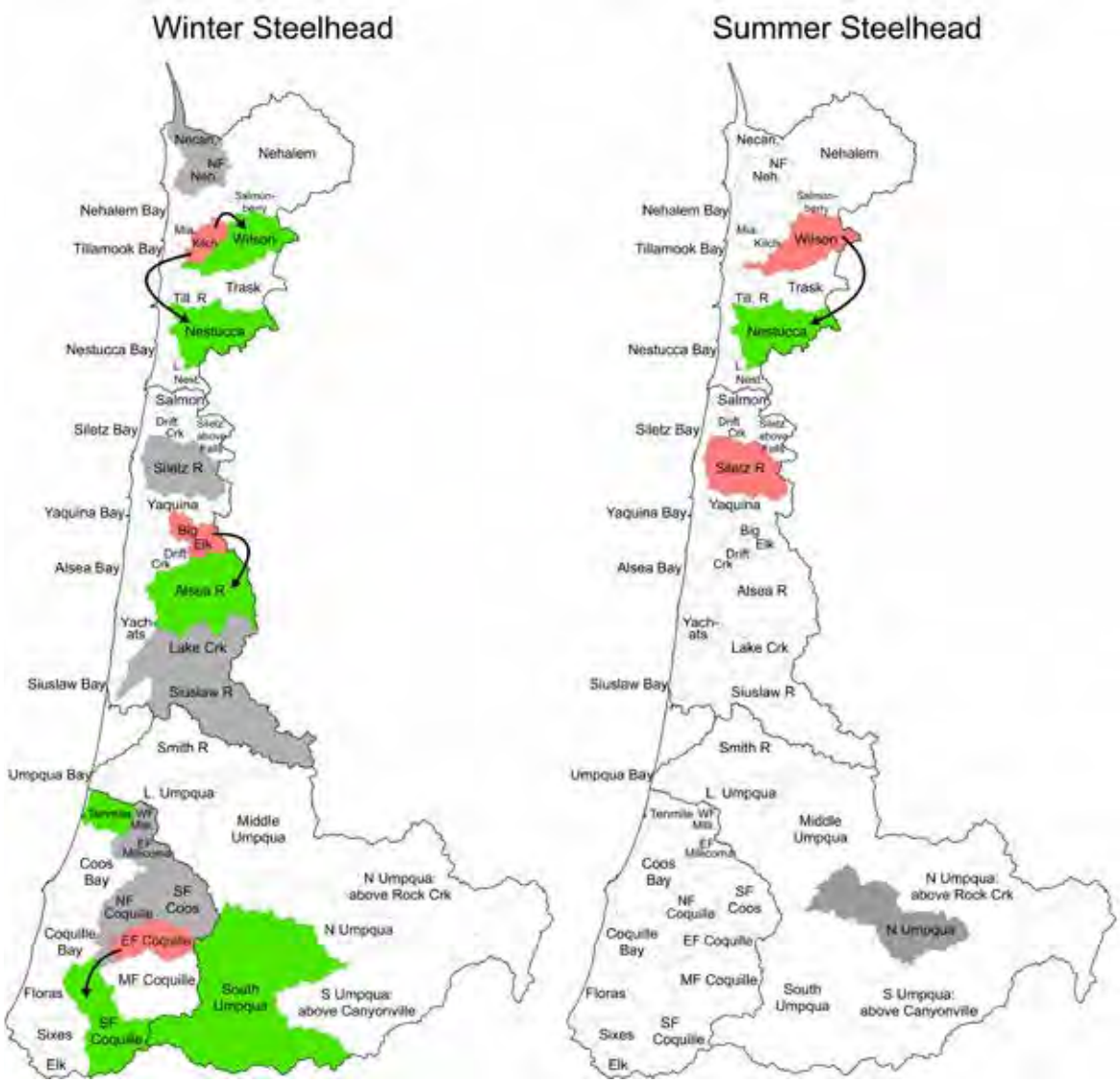

Figure 9b. Hatchery program changes by species (gray= no change; dark green=new hatchery program; light green=current program increased; red=current program reduced or shifted (arrows))

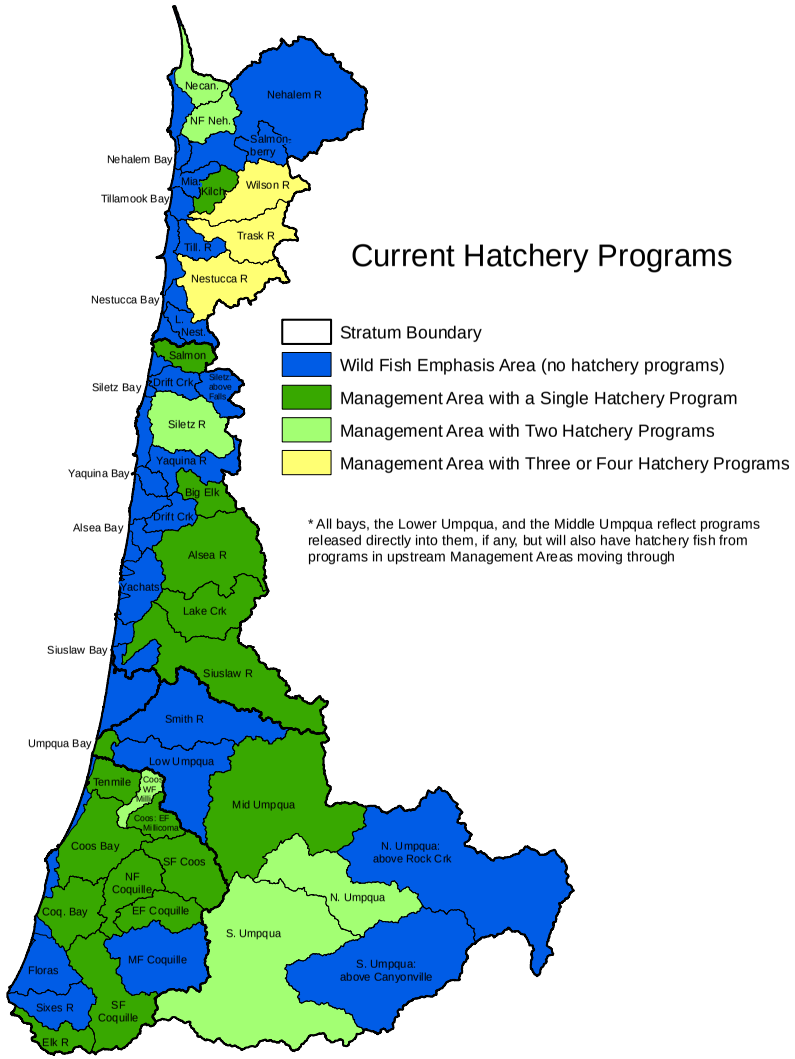

Figure 10. Current hatchery programs and Wild Fish Emphasis Areas by Management Area

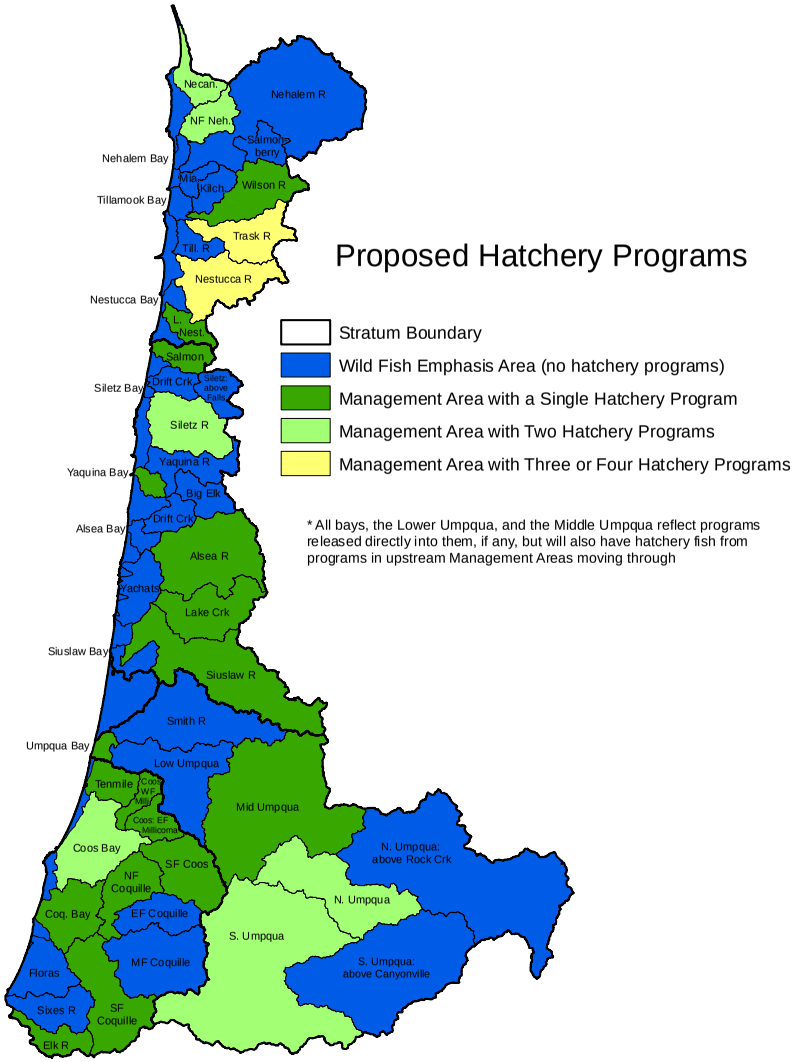

Figure 11. Proposed hatchery programs and Wild Fish Emphasis Areas by Management Area

MANAGING HARVEST RATES

The Portfolio approach is used to assign harvest risks to wild fish in different areas and at different times, while maximizing the harvest of hatchery fish. This mix of opportunity in space and time is the foundation for the harvest management approach in the CMP. It is generally similar to current opportunity, with small adjustments in several Management Areas, harvest limits, and harvest periods for some of the SMUs to meet Desired Status and fishing opportunity objectives.

Because Chinook remain in ocean fisheries for 2-5 years before they mature, return to freshwater, and spawn, it is especially important to limit increased harvest rates on this species when runs are low to protect their productivity and diversity. It is also vital to maintaining a low risk of extinction. The CMP does not influence ocean fisheries managed through international treaties and multi-state agreements, where harvest rates are typically 30% for some Chinook. The CMP does propose a number of specific management actions for Chinook and spring Chinook once they return to coastal streams, including sliding scale harvest management (e.g., reduced for low runs, increased for high runs) and protective periods for vulnerable life history variants.

Winter steelhead and coho salmon have been subject to very low ocean and river harvest rates for several decades. Both appear biologically capable of sustaining conservative harvest rates, and the CMP proposes very modest increases in the ability to harvest wild fish. Adjusting fishing regulations to allow retention of coho and winter steelhead is complicated by ESA listing status for coho and disparate social preferences regarding the harvest of wild steelhead.

No changes are proposed in the CMP for the daily and seasonal harvest limits for hatchery fish in any area. Key harvest management actions include:

Chinook

- For fall-run Chinook, no changes are proposed in the number or location of Management Areas that currently provide harvest of wild fish.
- To address the fishing/harvest limiting factor, sliding scale harvest management (where daily and annual bag limits vary with expected run size) is proposed for wild Chinook (Table 3, Figure 13). Sliding scale regulations are structured to be generally consistent across strata, rather than varying basin by basin. It is expected that most anglers will be able to harvest as many fish as they historically have because only a small portion of the angling public catches annual limits of wild fish and there is the continued ability to retain hatchery fish.

  Lower daily retention limits for average run sizes are proposed in locations where there is high fishing pressure (North Coast stratum), inconsistent status information (Tillamook, Nestucca, Salmon, and Floras rivers), and a non-viable population (Elk River, with similar protective regulations implemented on the Sixes River).

- To protect early-run life histories (spring and summer runs), a seasonal protective period, during which harvest of wild fish is prohibited, is instituted from April through July for most basins. Where harvest of wild fish is allowed (Nehalem and Siletz rivers), bag limits are reduced.
- Two new spring-run Chinook hatchery programs are established in the Yaquina and Coos basins to provide new fishing opportunities in those locations.

Spring Chinook

- Wild spring Chinook will continue to be retained only on the mainstem Umpqua River and North Umpqua River below Rock Creek from February through July.
- Sliding scale harvest management is instituted as described above. The "average" annual bag limit on wild fish will be reduced depending on location and forecasted returns.

Chum, Summer Steelhead

- Harvest of wild fish will continue to be prohibited.

Winter Steelhead

- Catch-and-release fisheries on wild winter steelhead exist in most locations and will continue. Given the species' strong biological status, a very modest wild harvest is proposed in 4 of the 49 Management Areas – Salmon River; Big Elk Creek/Yaquina River; East Fork Coquille River; and Sixes River, where harvest is currently allowed (see Figure 12).
- The maximum annual harvest of wild fish will be limited to ≤10% of the wild run in the three new harvest areas.
- Harvest will be regulated by a proposed bag limit of 1 fish daily/3 fish annually in Salmon River, Big Elk Creek/Yaquina River, East Fork Coquille River, and 1 fish daily/5 fish annually in the Sixes River.

Cutthroat Trout

- Regulations will be largely unchanged, with additional protections at presumed low levels and in North and South Umpqua River tributaries.

Coho

- A sliding scale harvest of ESA-listed wild coho is proposed to replace the current quota-based fishery.
- ODFW will work with NOAA to discuss harvest modifications for this ESA-listed SMU.

Other Harvest Management Actions

- Critical abundance thresholds and criteria, indicating when harvest will be prohibited to avoid further decline, are established for many populations.
- Oregon's anglers and guides have a wealth of untapped information about wild and hatchery fish. The CMP includes several actions to help gather this information so species can be better understood and managed:
  - An annual mandatory return of combined angling tags (i.e., "punch card"), daily licenses and hatchery harvest tags will be instituted to improve information about salmon and trout.

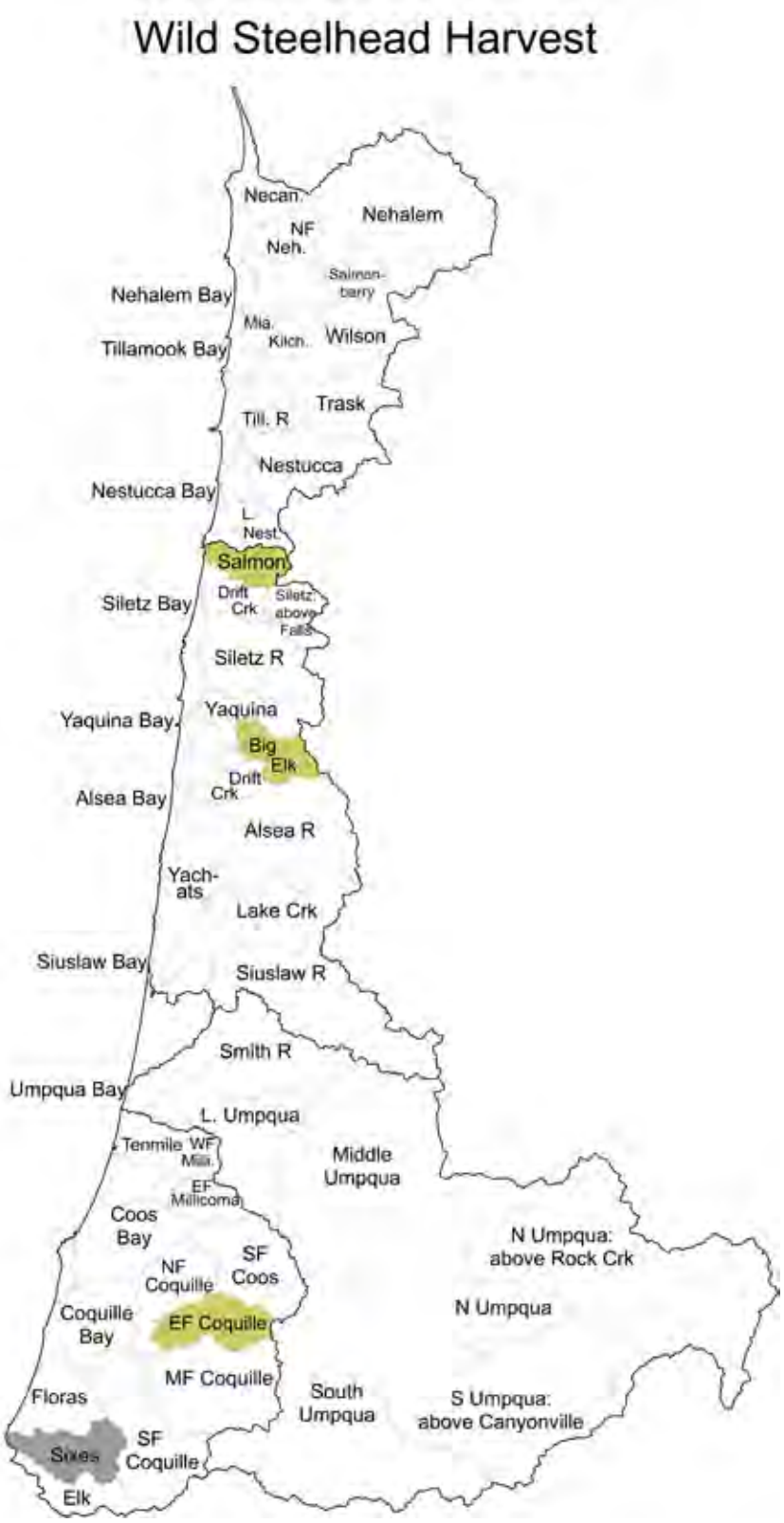

Figure 12. Steelhead harvest by management area (gray = existing; olive = proposed)

- ODFW will pursue a pilot program for sport guide logbooks in coordination with the Oregon State Marine Board and guides.

Table 3. Proposed Wild Fish Harvest Management Changes By Portfolio and Stratum

Stratum	Conservation Portfolio	Fishing Opportunity Portfolio
North Coast	Sliding scale for wild CHF (1/5, 1/10, 2/20)	
	Protective period for wild summer Chinook in the Nehalem River (1/1, 1/5, 1/10)	
Mid Coast	Sliding scale for wild CHF (1/5, 2/10, 2/20)	
		Wild STW fishery in Big Elk Creek (1/3)
	Protective period for wild CHS in the Siletz River (1/1, 1/5, 1/10)	Wild STW fishery in Salmon River (1/3)
Umpqua	Sliding scale for wild CHF (1/5, 2/10, 2/20)	
	Protection for wild CHS in the Umpqua River (1/1, 2/5, 2/10)	
Mid-South	Sliding scale for wild CHF (1/5, 2/10, 2/20) – except Elk and Sixes rivers (1/5, 1/10, 1/10)	
		Wild STW fishery in East Fork Coquille River (1/3)

Notes: CHF = fall-run Chinook, CHS = spring-run or Spring Chinook, and STW = winter steelhead

Numbers in parentheses indicate the daily and annual bag limits (e.g., "2/10" = 2 wild fish per day and 10 per year may be retained) for years with low, average and high forecasted abundances, respectively.

See the CMP for additional harvest details and actions, including deadlines.

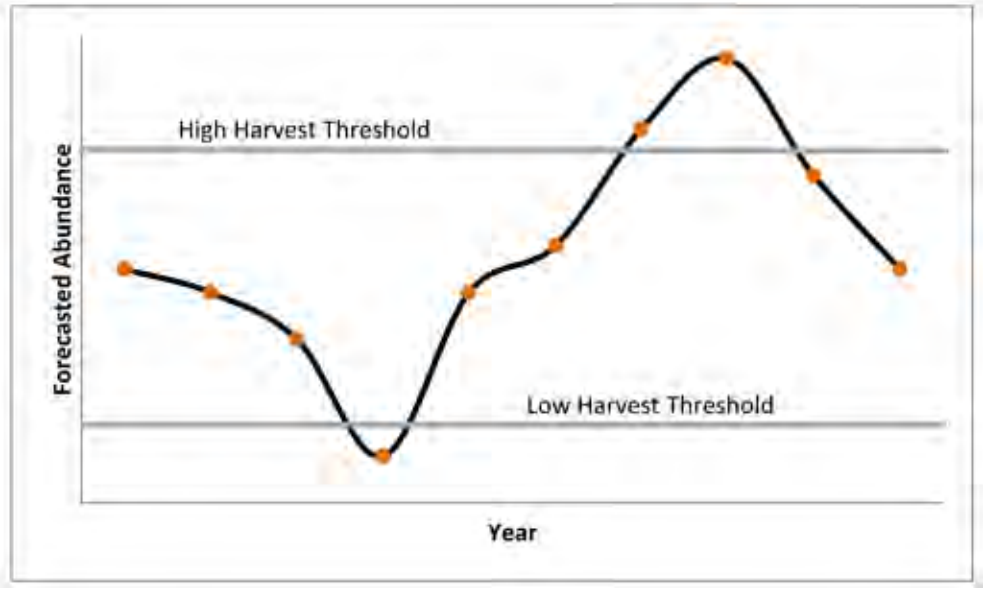

Figure 13. Sliding scale harvest management concept where harvest (i.e., bag limits) are modified based on a forecasted abundance. Harvest limits are greater when returns are forecast to be above average (i.e., above the High Harvest Threshold) and lesser when below average (i.e., below the Low Harvest Threshold).

UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING PREDATION

Predation on adult salmonids by marine mammals and on juveniles by non-native fish, marine mammals, and avian predators is a matter of significant biological and social concern. It may possibly be limiting many wild populations and significantly affecting the angling experience and Oregon's hatchery fish investment.

The CMP identifies basin-specific actions to address predation, but control of predators is likely to remain an on-going management concern. Where marine mammals and birds are concerned, Oregon currently has limited authority to do more than monitor and haze the animals. Marine mammals are protected and managed under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Most predacious birds are protected and managed under the international Migratory Bird Treaty Act. For non-native fish predation, effective means of control have not been established. Key management actions include:

- Actively pursue research to document impacts to wild and hatchery populations.
- Seek federal permission to engage active predator management wherever such actions are expected to be effective, including pursue a lethal take permit to manage cormorants.
- Haze predators in cooperation with volunteers.
- Support restoration of habitat that supports salmonids (including for predators of predators, e.g., bald eagles).
- Control non-native fish to the extent possible.

RESTORING HABITAT

Habitat is the foundation for conservation and fishing opportunity. Protecting high quality habitat and restoring degraded habitat for salmon and trout benefit both of these interests.

A broad range of on-the-ground work is necessary to restore historical watershed functions, including restoring in-stream and channel complexity and flood plain connectivity; lowering elevated water temperatures; responding to the magnitude and frequency of extreme flood and turbidity events; and improving access to spawning and rearing areas at all life stages (including estuarine tide marshes and channels). Limiting factors associated with freshwater habitat are typically the "bottleneck" for CMP populations. Future threats such as climate change and development due to population growth also manifest themselves through habitat impacts.

The CMP acknowledges that local restoration groups (e.g., watershed councils, SWCDs) and watershed assessments provide the best approach to define limiting factors and habitat needs at the appropriate scale for restoration (i.e., watersheds), and does not attempt to identify needs at this scale.

CMP HABITAT RESTORATION STRATEGIES

The CMP identifies general procedures, analyses and strategies to aid implementers of habitat restoration projects, including:

- A process to prioritize restoration needs for multiple species is identified at the watershed scale.
- New analyses that identify the inherent potential value of watersheds for salmon and trout, which may be a critical piece of information for implementers to use to help prioritize restoration needs.
- A general strategy to focus restoration work in mainstem rivers and estuaries to benefit multiple species.
- The recognition of the need for restoration of riparian function; peripheral connections to wetlands, floodplains, side-channels, and estuarine areas; improved water quality; and access to usable habitat.
- Identification of the need to protect cold water sources and encouragement of beaver activity.
- Encouragement to implementers to shift most of the emphasis of project selection from an opportunistic to a focused and prioritized approach.

CLIMATE CHANGE/OCEAN CONDITIONS

Annual, cyclic, and shifting trends in broad environmental conditions, including the climate and ocean conditions, are known to exert an extremely strong influence on salmonid survival. These broad environmental influences are outside of direct management control by the CMP. This increases the importance of appropriately managing risk factors under Oregon's control in order to offset broad influences and allow wild fish to be as resilient as possible.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The CMP identifies necessary current and new monitoring to ensure successful plan implementation. It recognizes that a robust monitoring approach is needed to inform on-going management decisions, provide adequate data for future status assessments, adaptively manage to assure actions are achieving their desired outcome, determine whether fish performance (e.g., abundance, productivity) and management goals (i.e., hatchery stray rates onto spawning grounds and harvest limits) are being met, and achieve Desired Status. The CMP emphasizes the importance of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center for conducting research that results in reduced hatchery fish risk and improved fisheries.

Metrics associated with monitoring wild fish populations, hatchery programs, and fisheries will be reported annually and used to adaptively manage wild fish, hatchery fish, and fisheries. They will also support a reassessment of status and management actions in 12 years.

Costs for CMP implementation will primarily be absorbed within the agency's base budget, and therefore much of the implementation can occur without new funds. However, there are some one-time and annual costs that are needed to implement certain actions called for in the CMP. One-time costs are largely related to infrastructure needs for implementing new or expanded hatchery programs and other hatchery fish management actions. Annual costs are associated with maintaining these hatchery initiatives (if volunteer or outside partners are not involved), providing more efficient and focused implementation of new programs (i.e., pinniped predation and mandatory harvest information coordination), and conducting additional research and monitoring. Many of the identified new funding needs are not necessarily required for completing the CMP actions, and cost should not be a deterrent for successful implementation. (Refer to the full draft CMP for specific cost estimates.)

The CMP is ambitious in its goals of conservation and utilization. It will require improvements in habitat, as well as management of hatchery fish, harvest, and other species. It will also require cooperation and dedication from all parties interested in coastal salmon, steelhead and trout to reach these goals. Fortunately, there is a long track record of citizens along the coast working together to restore fish and their habitats. If enthusiasm for preserving and being able to experience wild salmon, steelhead, and trout can be maintained and even increased, these ambitious goals can be achieved and Oregonians for many generations can benefit from all that these healthy salmon, steelhead, and trout populations can provide.

HOW THE PLAN WILL BE USED

The CMP will be used by ODFW to guide hatchery programs, fishing regulations, and predator management within the planning area. It represents the state's intended fish management direction for the six coastal SMUs for at least the next 12 years. As such, it will inform local management decisions, as well as overall budget deliberations by ODFW,

OFWC, and the Legislature. It will also advise ODFW's interaction with entities undertaking habitat restoration and protection on public and private lands and will help guide project prioritization to achieve improved wild fish conservation and fishing opportunities. Finally, the CMP can be referenced by other entities and the public as a "roadmap" that has not historically been available in a single source, providing comprehensive information and assurances about fish management direction.

ODFW will report annually on CMP implementation and, as needed and able, adaptively manage to meet the CMP's goals. After 12 years, another comprehensive status assessment will be conducted to determine whether the status of any of the six species has changed and whether additional or modified actions are needed to meet CMP goals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO COMMENT

To view the full Public Review Draft of the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, as well as to obtain more information about the CMP planning process, please visit the following website:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/coastal_multispecies.asp

Comments on this Public Review Draft should be submitted by **February 10, 2014** and can be submitted via e-mail to:

http://ODFW.CoastalPlan@state.or.us

Or by mail to:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302
Attention: Coastal Plan Comments

Comments received by February 10 will be considered by ODFW in developing a Proposed Plan for presentation to the Fish and Wildlife Commission at its April 2014 meeting. Comments received after February 10 will be provided to the Commission but will not arrive in time to be considered by staff in developing the Proposed Plan. Additional comment will be accepted and considered by OFWC up to and including their public hearings that are anticipated to occur between April and June 2014 to review and potentially adopt the CMP.

Thank you for your interest in Oregon's fish resources!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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