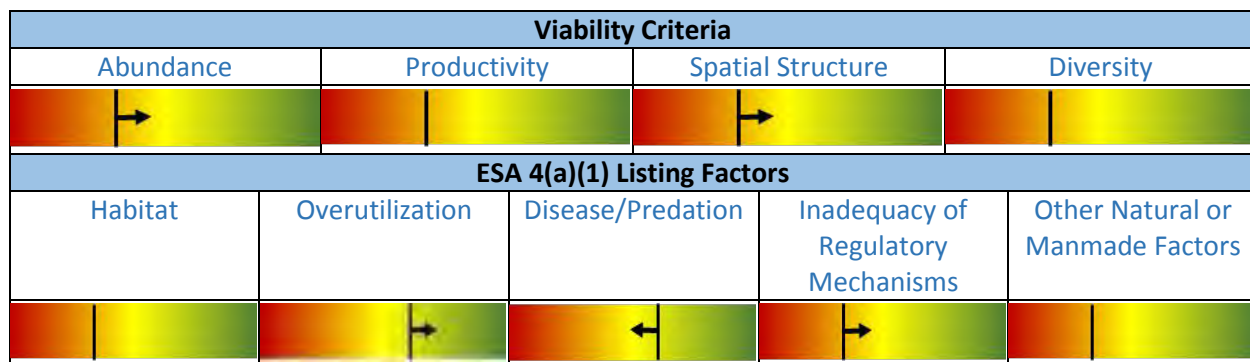


# Lower Columbia River Chinook Salmon ESU

## RECOMMENDED FINDINGS FOR 2016 ESA 5-YEAR REVIEWS

<b>ESU/DPS Name:</b>	<b>Lower Columbia River Chinook Salmon ESU</b>		
<b>ESU/DPS Definition:</b>	The Lower Columbia River Chinook Salmon ESU includes naturally spawned Chinook salmon originating from the Columbia River and its tributaries downstream of a transitional point east of the Hood and White Salmon Rivers, and any such fish originating from the Willamette River and its tributaries below Willamette Falls. This ESU include Chinook salmon from 15 artificial propagation programs: the Big Creek Tule Chinook Program; Astoria High School Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) Tule Chinook Program; Warrenton High School STEP Tule Chinook Program; Cowlitz Tule Chinook Program; North Fork Toutle Tule Chinook Program; Kalama Tule Chinook Program; Washougal River Tule Chinook Program; Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) Tule Chinook Program; Cowlitz Spring Chinook Program in the Upper Cowlitz River and the Cispus River; Friends of the Cowlitz Spring Chinook Program; Kalama River Spring Chinook Program; Lewis River Spring Chinook Program; Fish First Spring Chinook Program; and the Sandy River Hatchery (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Stock #11) (79 FR 20802).		
<b>Current Status:</b>	<b>THREATENED</b>		
<b>First Listed:</b> 1999	<b>Last Reviewed:</b> 2011	<b>Recovery Plan Completed:</b> 2013	

### Status and Recent Trends



<b>Key Threats Currently Facing ESU/DPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced or loss of habitat complexity, connectivity, quantity, and quality in the lower tributaries and tributary/Columbia River mainstem interface, the mainstem (especially for ocean-type Chinook and chum) and the estuary.</li> <li>Toxic contamination.</li> </ul>
<b>Noteworthy Conservation Accomplishments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous habitat protection and restoration efforts have been implemented through the efforts of groups.</li> <li>Conservation banks have been established.</li> <li>Habitat conservation plans are being implemented.</li> </ul>

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<p>Key Research and Monitoring Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantitatively analyze net habitat loss and restoration/protective efforts evaluate the effectiveness of existing land-use regulatory mechanisms, land-use management plans, and</li> <li>• Improve monitoring of spawning population assessments</li> </ul>
<p>Top Near-Term Recovery Priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with our Federal, state and local partners in implementing our 2013 Lower Columbia River Recovery Plan.</li> <li>• Complete ESA section 7 consultations on multiple proposed actions including hatchery biological opinions and hatchery and genetic management plans.</li> <li>• Implementing expanded re-introduction programs to re-establish populations in basins that have been extirpated, particularly for CR chum salmon.</li> </ul>
<p>Potentially Sensitive or Controversial Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land-use decision making throughout the domain</li> <li>• Competition for hatchery space works to the disadvantage of the low-priority chum.</li> </ul>

<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>Changes in ESU/DPS Delineation:      None</p> <p>Changes in Hatchery Membership:      None</p> <p>2016 Listing Status Recommendation: Retain Current Threatened Status</p>
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