

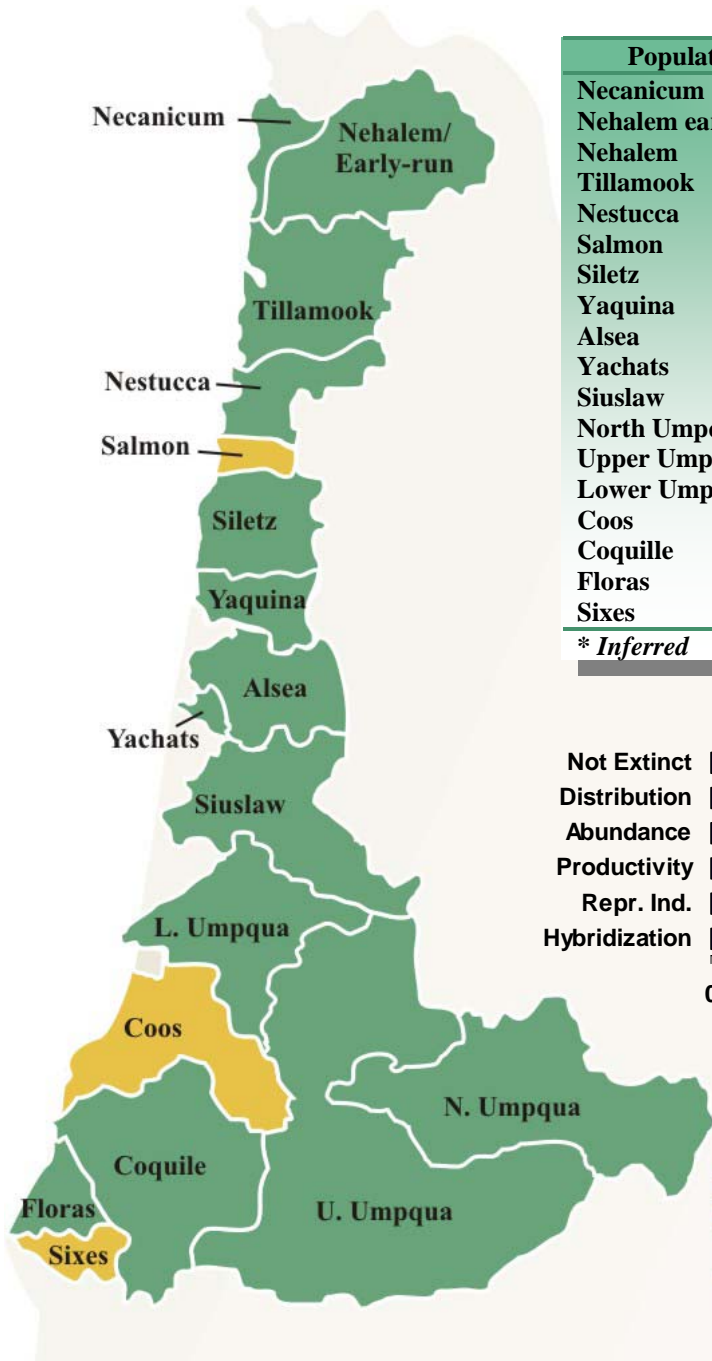
# Coastal Fall Chinook SMU

ESA Designation:  
*Not Warranted 1999*

State Status:  
*Not Listed*

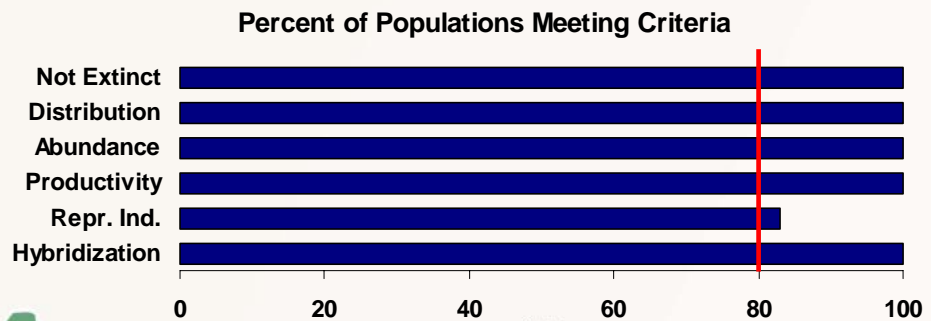
Interim Assessment:  
*Not at Risk*

The Coastal Fall Chinook SMU includes 18 populations between the Necanicum and Sixes basins. Spawner returns to these basins have been strong in recent years, and hatchery influence is generally low. The SMU met all six criteria so the near-term sustainability of the population is not at risk. Suitable data and other information on populations in this SMU provide a moderate level of confidence in the assessment of the interim criteria.



Population	Exist	Dist.	Abund.	Prod.	Ind.	Hybrid
Necanicum	Pass	Pass*	Pass*	Pass	Pass*	Pass
Nehalem early-run	Pass	Pass*	Pass*	Pass*	Pass*	Pass
Nehalem	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass
Tillamook	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass*	Pass*	Pass
Nestucca	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass
Salmon	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass*	<b>Fail</b>	Pass
Siletz	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass*	Pass*	Pass
Yaquina	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass
Alea	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass
Yachats	Pass	Pass*	Pass*	Pass*	Pass*	Pass
Siuslaw	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass
North Umpqua	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass
Upper Umpqua	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass
Lower Umpqua	Pass	Pass*	Pass*	Pass*	Pass*	Pass
Coos	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	<b>Fail*</b>	Pass
Coquille	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Floras	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass
Sixes	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	<b>Fail*</b>	Pass

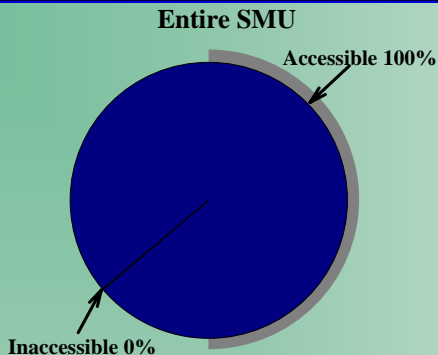
\* *Inferred*



■ All criteria met  
■ 4-5 criteria met  
■ < 4 criteria met  
■ Extinct



## Distribution – Pass



- Essentially all of the historically-accessible habitat for fall Chinook within the SMU remains accessible today.
- Distribution and habitat use patterns within accessible habitats may vary annually, and likely do not include all of the available habitat in each year.

## Productivity - Pass

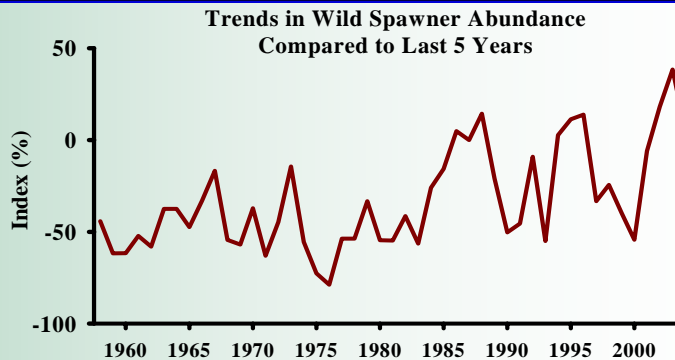


- All 18 populations passed this criterion. All 12 populations with at least five years of productivity estimates passed the criterion. The remaining six populations passed based on anecdotal information.
- The Tillamook and Siletz passed the criterion because juvenile data indicate that these populations have been well seeded in recent years, and that in years of low seeding, recruit per spawner estimates were greater than 1.2.

## Additional Information

- The Nehalem contains a unique early-run population that have also been known as a “summer run”. These fish begin entering the Nehalem as early as July, and the end of their arrival overlaps with the arrival of the later-run Nehalem fall Chinook in October. These two populations are distinguished in the assessment as the “Nehalem early-run” and “Nehalem” populations.

## Abundance – Pass



- All of the 18 populations passed this criterion.
- Wild fall Chinook abundance, averaged for populations across the SMU, has fluctuated but shown a general increasing trend since the 1950s.
- Returns in from 2001-2004, have been among the largest recorded in the last 45 years.

## Independence - Pass

- 15 of 18 populations passed the criterion based on the absence of hatchery releases, or low proportions of hatchery fish observed during spawning surveys.
- No hatchery fall Chinook are released into the Nehalem, Siletz, Alsea, Yachats, or Siuslaw basins.
- Hatchery Chinook are released into both the Necanicum and Yaquina. The Necanicum passed because release levels are low relative to basin size, and the Yaquina passed because data from spawning surveys indicate very few hatchery fish are spawning naturally.
- Trapping data from the Coquille indicate that hatchery fractions among natural spawners are low in this basin.
- Hatchery releases are nearly 200,000 smolts annually in the Salmon River. Hatchery fish comprise more than 50% of natural spawners.
- Straying of Elk River fall Chinook into the Sixes has resulted in high hatchery fractions there.