

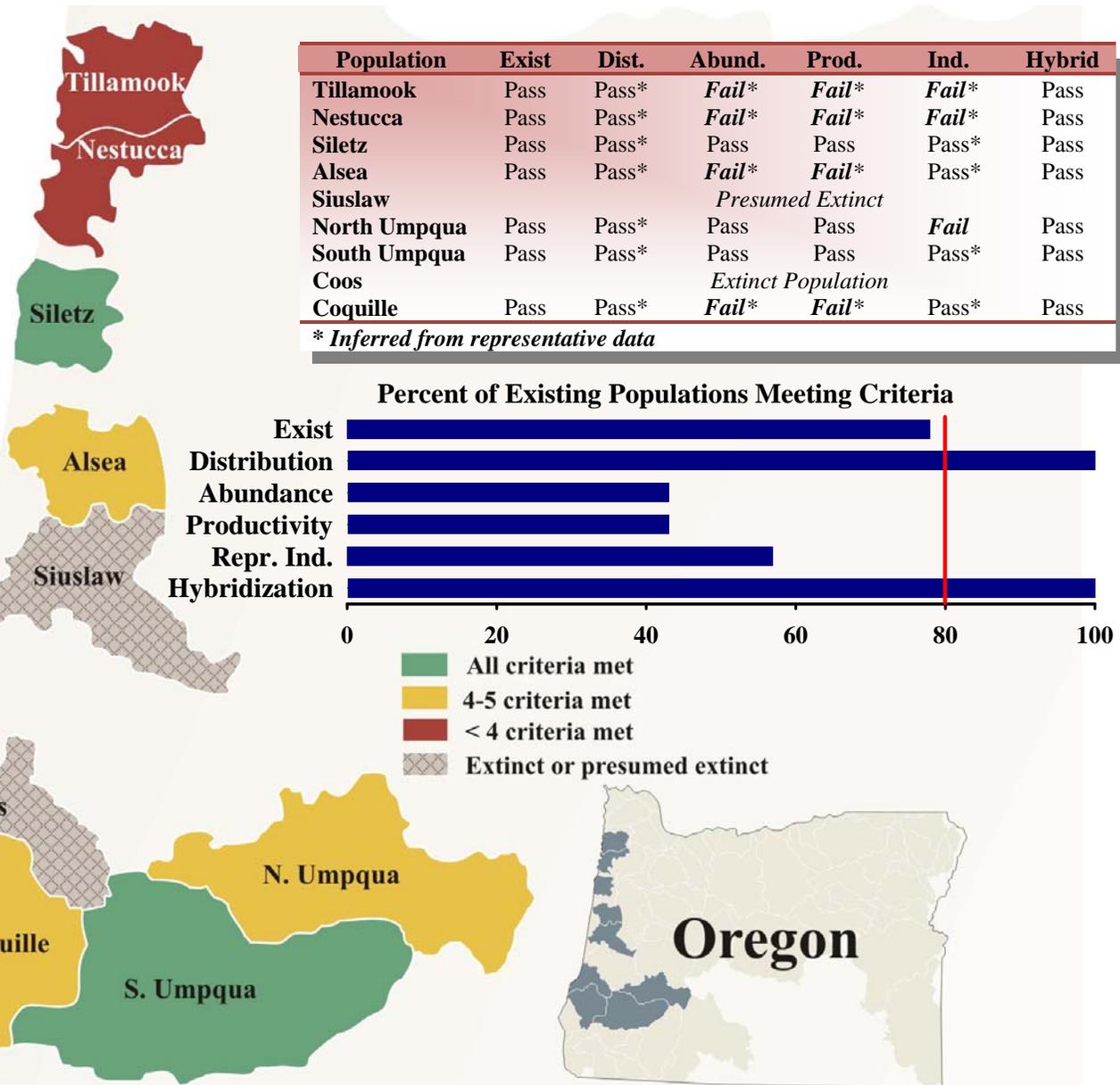
Coastal Spring Chinook SMU

ESA Designation:
Not Warranted 1998

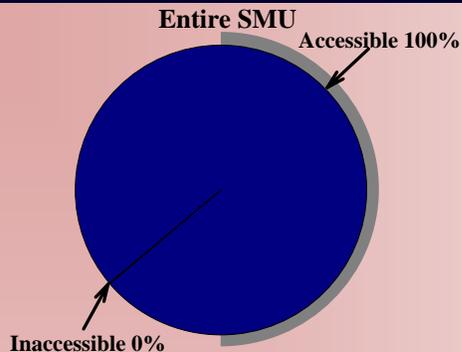
State Status:
Not Listed

Interim Assessment:
At Risk

This SMU includes nine populations between Tillamook Bay and the Coquille River. There is no comprehensive monitoring program for coastal spring Chinook, so the assessment was based on available indices of abundance and anecdotal information. The SMU met only two of six criteria so the near-term sustainability of the SMU is at risk. While a couple of the populations appear to be stable and passed each of the criteria, it is thought that returns to the SMU are generally low. The 1998 ESA designation of “Not Warranted” by NOAA Fisheries does not distinguish between coastal fall Chinook and spring Chinook. Elsewhere in this report coastal fall Chinook are assessed as “Not at Risk”. Limited data and inferences from other information for populations in this SMU provide a qualified level of confidence in the assessment of interim criteria.



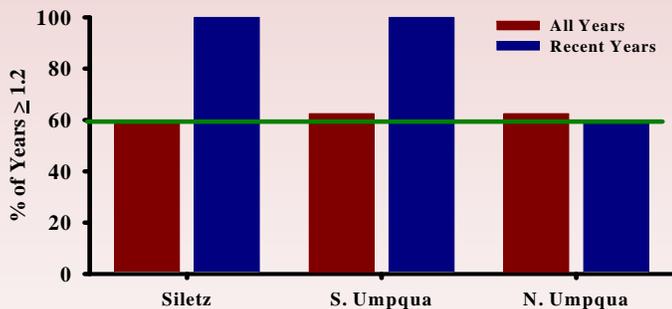
Distribution – Pass



- Essentially all of the potential spring Chinook habitat 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. Some of the accessible habitats may not be in a condition that they can currently be used as they were in pre-settlement times.
- Habitat changes and use patterns have not been reduced to the point where this criterion is failed.

Productivity - Fail

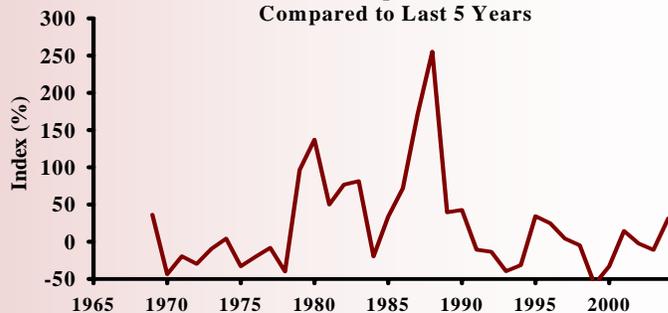
Productivity in Years of Low Abundance



- Three of seven existing populations passed this criterion.
- Productivity could not be estimated for the Tillamook and Nestucca because hatchery and wild fish could not be distinguished in the abundance data. These populations were assumed to have failed based on reduced returns since the late 1980s.
- The Alsea failed the criterion due to chronically low abundance indicating the population is not resilient.
- The remaining populations exceeded the 1.2 recruits per spawner standard in at least three of the last five years. Productivity in recent years of low abundance has been somewhat better than the long-term average in the Siletz and South Umpqua.

Abundance – Fail

Trends in Wild Spawner Abundance Compared to Last 5 Years



- Three of seven existing populations passed the criterion.
- The Tillamook and Nestucca populations failed this criterion because returns (hatchery and wild combined) have declined since the 1980s despite significant hatchery releases. The Alsea and Coquille failed because of chronically low returns.
- Returns in each of the other existing populations exceeded the criterion in at least four of the last five years.
- The abundance trend above incorporates data from the Tillamook, Nestucca, Siletz, North Umpqua, and South Umpqua populations. Since abundance is measured by different metrics in these basins, a relative index was used within the graph.

Independence - Fail

- Four of seven existing populations passed this criterion.
- The Tillamook and Nestucca failed based on the presence of hatchery releases.
- The Siletz, Alsea, South Umpqua, and Coquille each passed because no hatchery fish are released there.
- The assessment for the North Umpqua was based on a 2004 spawning survey that showed 17% of naturally spawning fish were hatchery origin. Based on hatchery release practices, it is likely that this estimate is representative of recent years.