

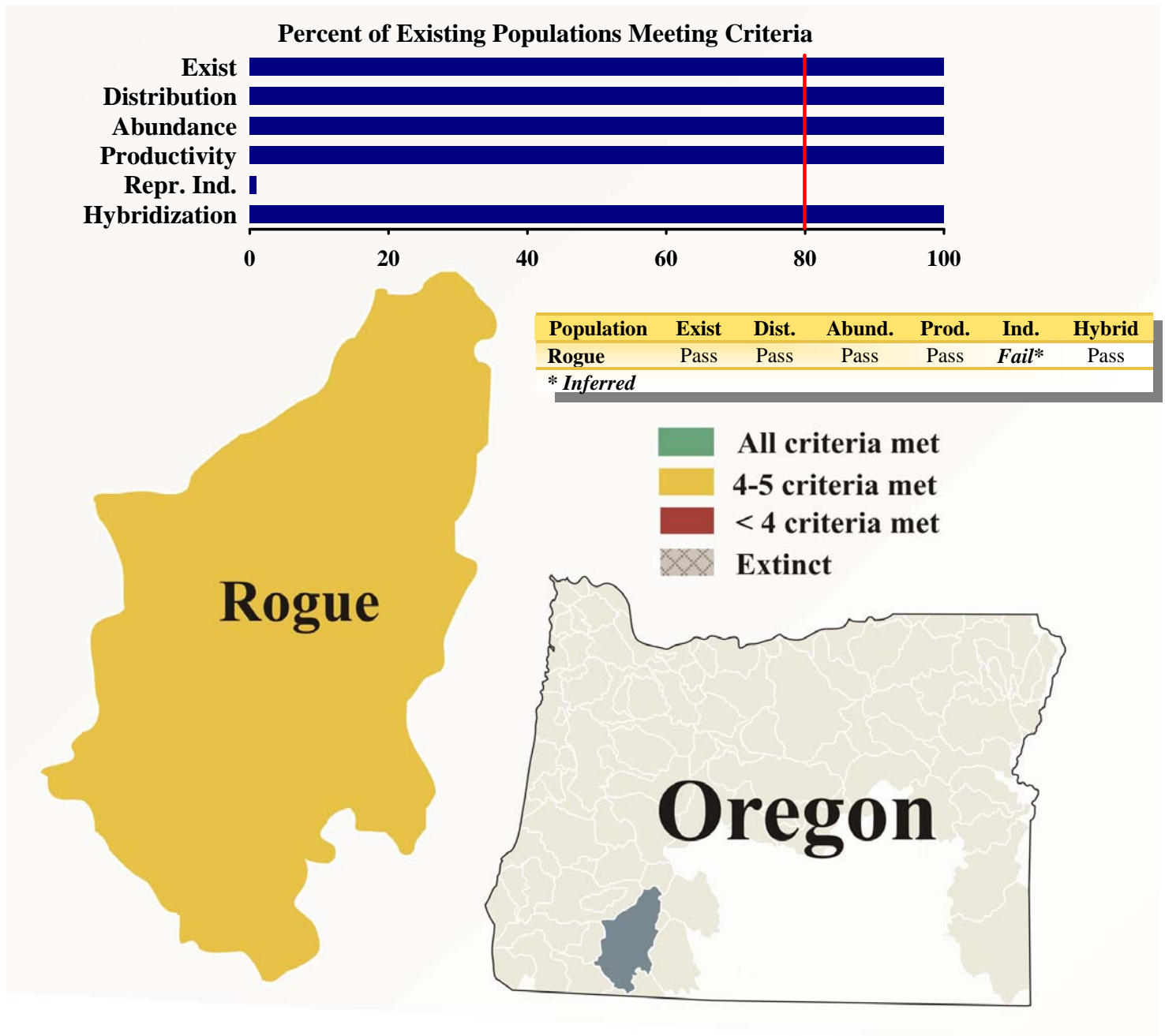
Rogue Spring Chinook SMU

ESA Designation:
Not Warranted 1999

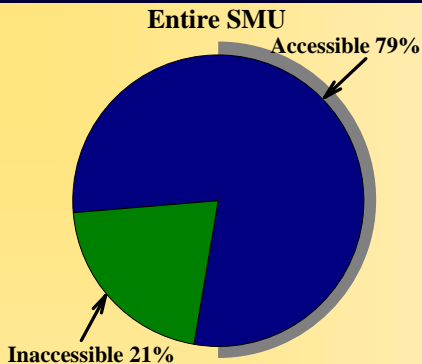
State Status:
Not Listed

Interim Assessment:
Potentially at Risk

This SMU consists of a single population upstream of Gold Ray Dam in the Rogue River. The population passed all criteria except for reproductive independence resulting indicating the near-term sustainability of the SMU is potentially at risk. The Rogue Basin is home of the largest Chinook hatchery program on the Oregon coast. Cole Rivers Hatchery releases approximately 1.9 million spring Chinook smolts annually to mitigate for habitat lost to Lost Creek Dam.

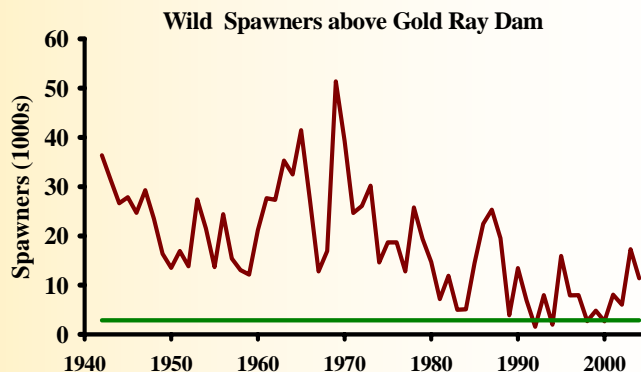


Distribution – Pass



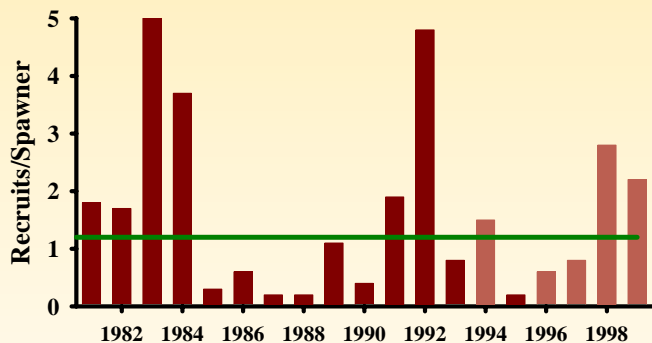
- Construction of Lost Creek Dam in 1977 on the mainstem upper Rogue eliminated access to 21% of the spring chinook habitat in the basin.
- More than 50% of the historically accessible habitat remains accessible today, so the SMU passes the criterion.

Abundance - Pass



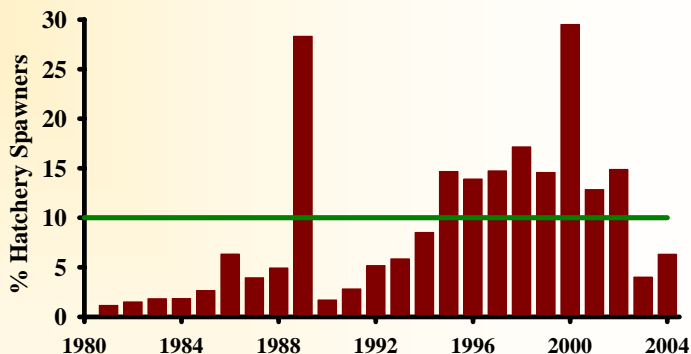
- Returns have generally declined since 1970 with a slight increase since 2000.
- The graph above reflects adult and jack abundance up until 1977, and only adult abundance since 1978. Jacks have made up 18% of returns since 1978.
- The population exceeded the abundance criterion in four of the last five years.

Productivity - Pass



- The population met the criterion threshold of 1.2 in three of the last five years of low abundance. In the graph above, the last five years of low abundance are identified by lighter shading.
- Productivity estimates in the Rogue have exceeded 1.2 recruits per spawner in nine of the last 19 years.

Independence - Fail



- Over 10% of spawners have been of hatchery origin in three of the last five years.
- The proportional contribution of hatchery spawners to the natural spawning population has decreased with increased returns of wild fish in the last couple years.
- From 1995-2002 hatchery fractions among natural spawners exceeded 10% in every year.

Additional Information

- A new regulation was implemented in 2004 to reduce freshwater harvest of wild spring Chinook in the Rogue. Anglers are now limited to one non-finclipped fish per day and three per year. Previous regulations allowed harvest of two non-finclipped fish per day and 20 per year.
- A Conservation Plan is currently under development for Rogue spring Chinook. The Plan will identify goals for the wild spring Chinook population in the Rogue and management strategies that will help achieve those goals.