

Lower Columbia Winter Steelhead SMU

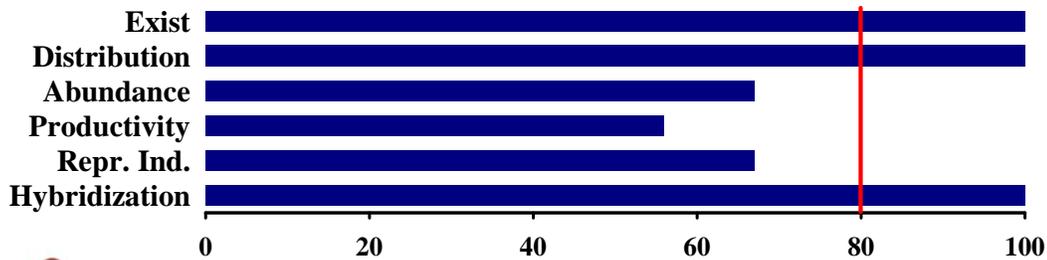
ESA Designation:
Threatened 1998

State Status:
Critical

Interim Assessment:
At Risk

This SMU consists of nine populations in tributaries to the Columbia River from the mouth up to Fifteenmile Creek near The Dalles. The Clackamas population is also included within this SMU. Data are limited for the Youngs, Big, Clatskanie, and Gorge populations and the status of these populations is unknown. Precautionary application of interim criteria treats inconclusive or insufficient data as failure in the assessment of risks to the SMU. The SMU only met three of the six interim criteria indicating its near-term sustainability is 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.

Percent of Existing Populations Meeting Criteria



Population	Exist	Dist.	Abund.	Prod.	Ind.	Hybrid
Youngs	Pass	Pass*	Pass*	Pass*	Fail*	Pass
Big	Pass	Pass*	Fail*	Fail*	Fail*	Pass
Clatskanie	Pass	Pass*	Fail*	Fail*	Pass*	Pass
Scappoose	Pass	Pass*	Fail*	Fail*	Pass	Pass
Clackamas	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Sandy	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass
Gorge	Pass	Pass*	Pass*	Pass*	Pass*	Pass
Hood	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass
Fifteenmile	Pass	Pass*	Pass	Pass	Pass*	Pass

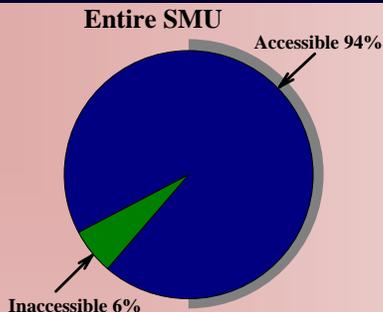
* Inferred



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

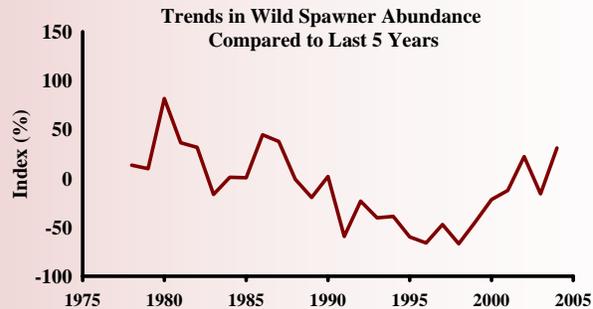
Oregon

Distribution - Pass



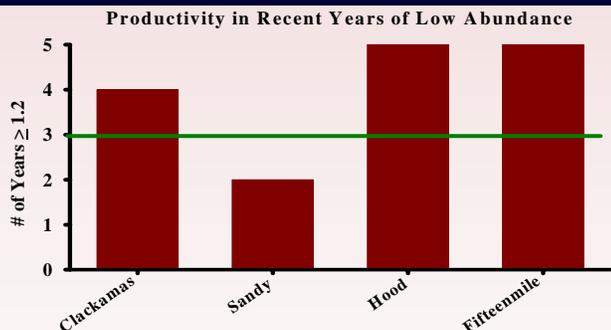
- All nine populations passed the distribution criterion.
- 94% of the historically-available habitat of this species management unit is still available today.
- Seven of the nine populations have lost access to 5% or less of their historic habitat.
- Dams in the Sandy have blocked 23% of the historic habitat.
- Starting in 2000, naturally-produced fish were allowed access to habitat above hatchery barriers in the Youngs and Big basins. A hatchery barrier on Gnat Creek (Big population) blocks access to four miles of habitat.

Abundance - Fail



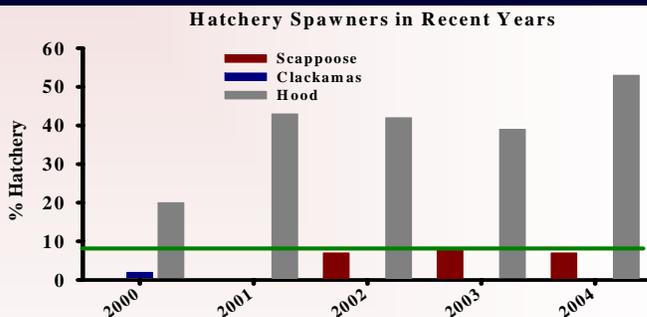
- Each of the four populations with abundance estimates passed. The graph above includes data from the Clackamas, Sandy, Hood, and Fifteenmile populations and reflects changes in abundance relative to the last five years.
- Wild numbers in the Sandy declined steadily through the mid 1980s and early 1990s, but remained above the criterion level in all but one year.
- Wild returns to the Clackamas in 2002 and 2003 were the highest in 15 years. The 2004 return was the largest since 1971.
- The Youngs population was assumed to have passed because redd densities in 2003 and 2004 were higher than in most coastal basins which are relatively healthy. In the same years, redd densities were low in the Big and Clatskanie causing those populations to fail.

Productivity – Fail



- Of the four populations for which productivity could be estimated, three passed the criterion. The Youngs population passed based on its abundance assessment. The Big and Clatskanie populations because of the abundance outcome, and Scappoose failed based on inconclusive data.
- Productivity in the Clackamas exceeded the criterion in four of the last five years of low abundance.
- Productivity in the Sandy has exceeded 1.2 for only two of the past 22 broods.
- Productivity for the Hood exceeded 1.2 in five of eight broods. Hood River estimates were assumed to be representative of the Gorge.

Independence – Fail



- Three of nine populations failed this criterion.
- Significant releases occur in the Youngs and Big populations.
- Hood River stock hatchery steelhead are passed above Powerdale Dam to supplement natural spawning.
- No hatchery releases occur in the Clatskanie or Gorge populations and strays are rare.
- Less than 10% of fish observed at Bonnie Falls in the Scappoose in the last five years were hatchery origin.
- Since 2001, only wild fish are allowed to pass above North Fork Dam in the Clackamas.
- In the Sandy, passage of hatchery fish above Marmot Dam was terminated in 1999.