

Lower Columbia Coastal Cutthroat SMU

ESA Designation:
None

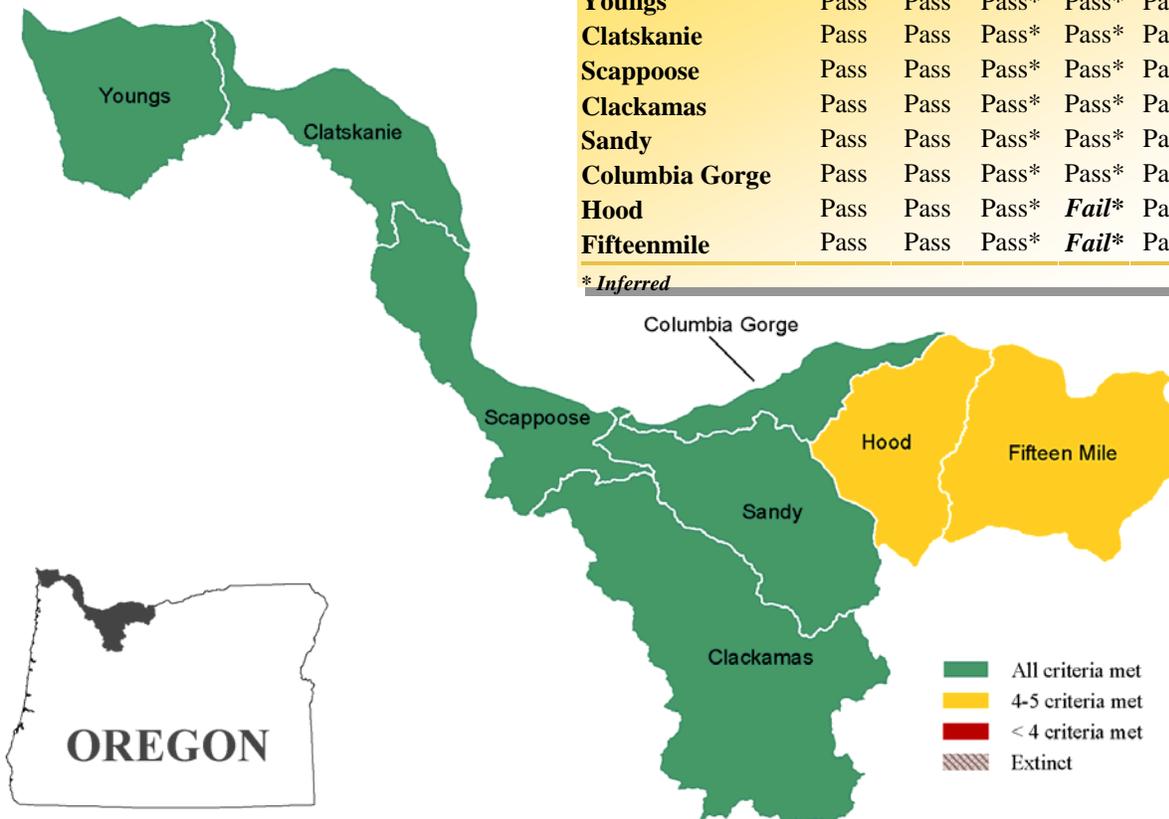
State Status:
Critical

Interim Assessment:
Potentially at Risk

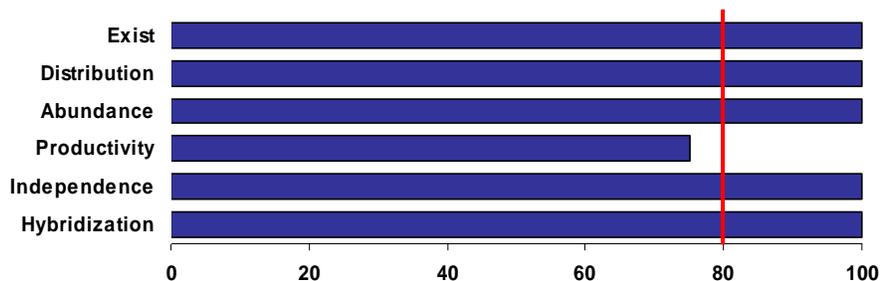
The Lower Columbia River basin supports the resident, fluvial, adfluvial and anadromous life histories of coastal cutthroat trout. The Lower Columbia River Coastal Cutthroat SMU is comprised of eight populations. All populations passed all six of the interim criteria except the Hood and Fifteenmile populations, which failed the productivity criterion due to the extremely depressed anadromous life-history. Since quantitative data are limited, the assessment was based on available data, as well as anecdotal evidence and professional opinion. This SMU was assessed as ‘potentially at risk’ due to the failure of the productivity criterion. Limited data sets and inferences from other information for populations in this SMU provide a qualified level of confidence in the assessment of the interim criteria.

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

* Inferred



Percent of Populations Meeting Criteria



Distribution - Pass

- All life history types (resident, fluvial, adfluvial, anadromous) are present and distributed widely.
- Empirical and anecdotal evidence suggests that coastal cutthroat trout are distributed widely in each population within the SMU.

Productivity – Fail

- No spawning data are available for coastal cutthroat trout.
- For this criterion, coastal cutthroat trout populations were assessed on their ability to rebuild after periods of low abundance.
- The Hood and Fifteenmile populations of coastal cutthroat trout failed the productivity criterion due to the extremely low levels of anadromous adults seen over the last twenty years. Populations that have lost a life-history strategy may become less productive. The SMU also failed this criterion.

Additional Information

- Most coastal cutthroat trout data in the Lower Columbia River SMU come from occasional sampling by ODFW Watershed Districts or from sampling targeted at other species. These various datasets are difficult to compare to each other when the sampling procedures are not consistent. During the development of a conservation plan for the Lower Columbia River coastal cutthroat trout SMU, ODFW will consider ways to compare these datasets and develop protocols for future data collection to make datasets more compatible.
 - During development of a conservation plan, the historical presence of the anadromous life-history in the Hood and Fifteenmile will be investigated. The significance of losing that life-history will also be examined
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Abundance – Pass

- All life history forms of coastal cutthroat trout (resident, fluvial, adfluvial, anadromous) were considered part of the same population for this assessment.
- Quantitative data are not available at a population level. However, the existing data, along with professional opinion and anecdotal observations suggest that coastal cutthroat trout are relatively abundant throughout the SMU.

Independence - Pass

- All stocking of coastal cutthroat trout in moving waters was ceased by 1994. The effects of historical breeding between hatchery cutthroat trout and wild coastal cutthroat trout have not been determined.