

Northern Green Sturgeon SMU

ESA Designation:

State Designation:

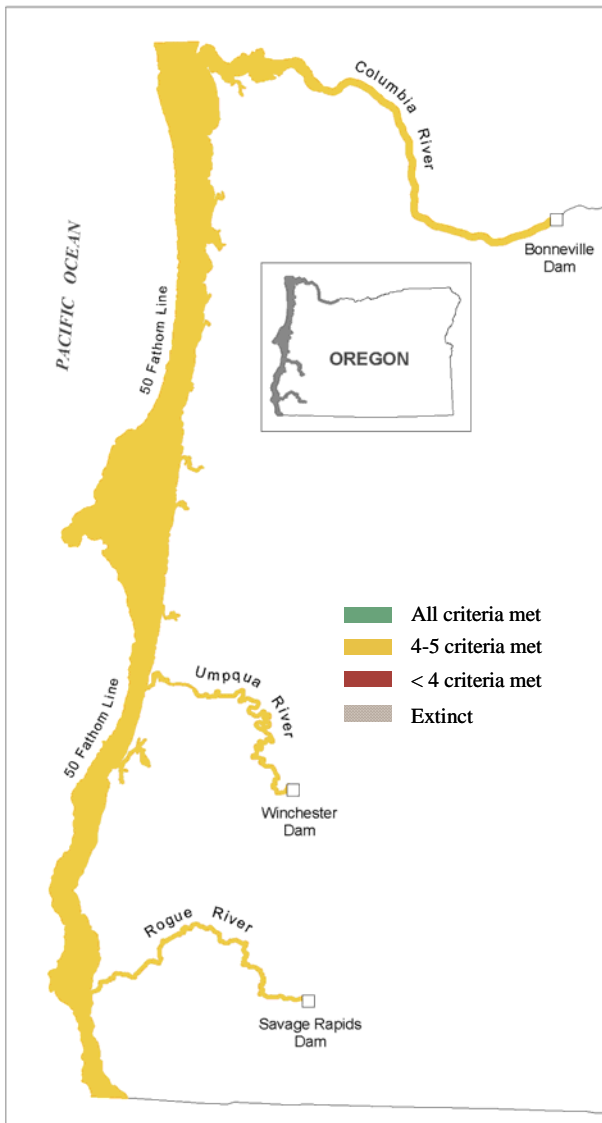
Interim Assessment:

Species of Concern

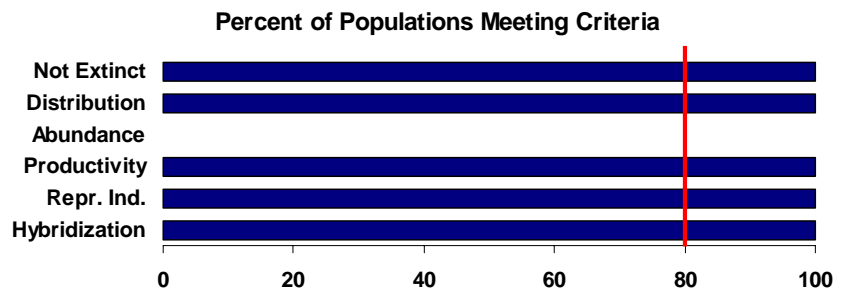
None

Not Assessed

For this report, green sturgeon in Oregon were divided into two SMU's to reflect the distinct population segment (DPS) designations of NOAA Fisheries. The Northern Green Sturgeon SMU consists of green sturgeon spawning in the Klamath and Trinity Rivers of California, and in the Rogue River, Oregon, and found off the Oregon coast, and in coastal estuaries, including the Columbia River estuary. The Southern Green Sturgeon SMU consists of green sturgeon spawning in the Sacramento River, and found off the Oregon coast, and in coastal estuaries, including the Columbia River estuary. Population boundaries for sturgeon are not clearly understood. For this exercise, the entire SMU is considered one population. Currently, green sturgeon carry no special status in Oregon. The NFCP interim criteria are not appropriate to assess the status of sturgeon. Therefore, we have not assessed the conservation risk to sturgeon in this report.



Population	Exist	Dist.	Abund.	Prod.	Ind.	Hybrid
Northern	Pass	Pass	Fail*	Pass	Pass	Pass
*Inferred						



Distribution - Pass

- Green sturgeon remain present in all documented historic habitats and ranges in Oregon.

Abundance - Fail

- Limited information suggests no negative (or positive) population abundance trends in Oregon populations of green sturgeon.
- Historic abundance information is unavailable.
- Current abundance information is heavily reliant on inconsistent harvests of green sturgeon captured as bycatch in target fisheries for other species.
- A precautionary approach was taken in assessing the abundance criterion for green sturgeon. As a result of a lack of abundance data, the northern population failed this criterion.

Productivity - Pass

- Limited information suggests that size structure of harvested fish does not reflect a population that is experiencing negative trends in productivity.
- Size structure information is based on harvest of fish 42"-66" in total length, and does not capture the entire range of sizes in the population.
- Juvenile green sturgeon have been captured in South Coast Oregon estuaries intermittently during sampling for other species, indicating some production has occurred.
- Spawning of the Northern SMU occurs in the Rogue River and is suspected but poorly documented in the Umpqua River. Consistent spawning and production has been documented in the Klamath and Trinity rivers of California.

Independence - Pass

- No hatchery produced green sturgeon are present in Oregon waters.

Additional Information

- The harvest of green sturgeon has been reduced in recent years. This reduction is not due to declining catch-per-effort but is a response to market conditions, regulation changes, and changing fisheries for other species.
 - Green sturgeon that spawn in the Sacramento River are genetically different than green sturgeon that spawn in the Rogue River. This distinction is the reason for two separate species management units
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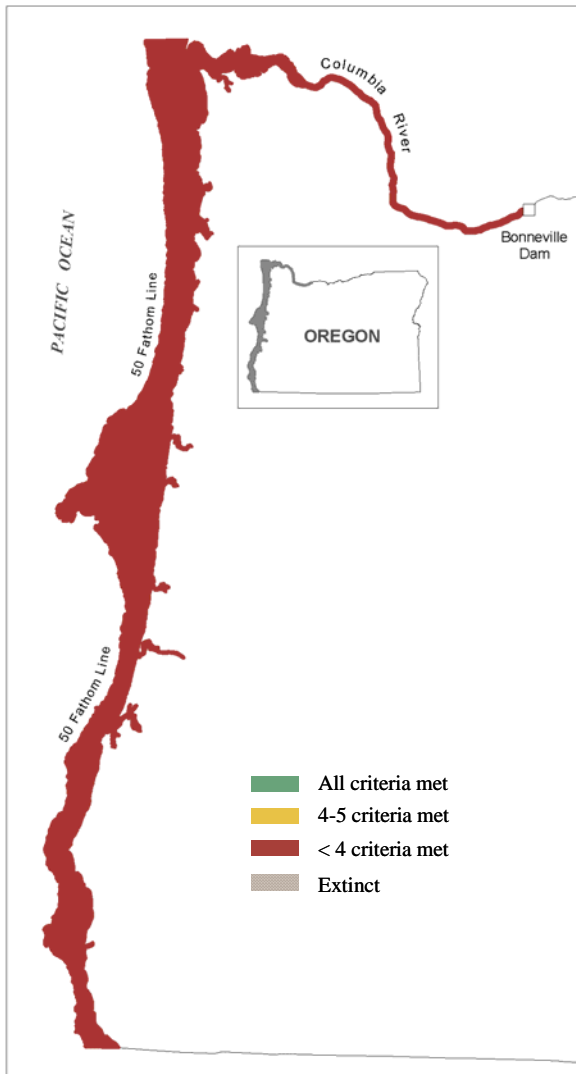
Southern Green Sturgeon SMU

ESA Designation:
Threatened

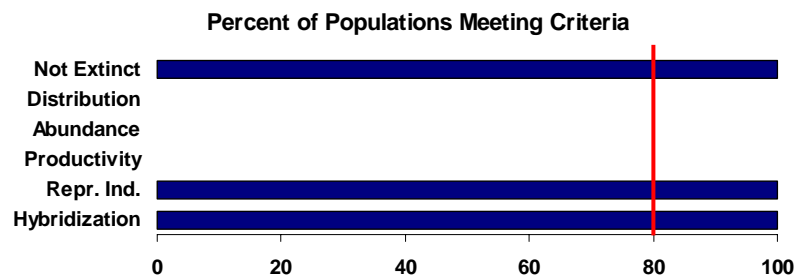
State Designation:
None

Interim Assessment:
Not Assessed

For this report, green sturgeon in Oregon were divided into two SMU's to reflect the distinct population segment (DPS) designations of NOAA Fisheries. The Southern Green Sturgeon SMU consists of green sturgeon spawning in the Sacramento River, and found off the Oregon coast, and in coastal estuaries, including the Columbia River estuary. The Northern Green Sturgeon SMU consists of green sturgeon spawning in the Klamath and Trinity Rivers of California, and in the Rogue River, Oregon, and found off the Oregon coast, and in coastal estuaries, including the Columbia River estuary. Population boundaries for sturgeon are not clearly understood. For this exercise, the entire SMU is considered one population. Currently, green sturgeon carry no special status in Oregon. The NFCP interim criteria are not appropriate to assess the status of sturgeon. Therefore, we have not assessed the conservation risk to sturgeon in this report.



Population	Exist	Dist.	Abund.	Prod.	Ind.	Hybrid
Southern	Pass	Fail*	Fail*	Fail*	Pass	Pass
* Inferred						



Distribution - Fail

- Green sturgeon remain present in all documented historic habitats and ranges in Oregon.
- The Southern SMU spawns exclusively in rivers in California.
- It is believed that over 50% of historical spawning habitat for this SMU is no longer accessible or usable.

Productivity - Fail

- Limited information suggests that size structure of harvested fish does not reflect a population that is experiencing negative trends in productivity.
- Size structure information is based on harvest of fish 42"-66" in total length, and does not capture the entire range of sizes in the population.
- Production of Southern SMU green sturgeon found in Oregon is believed to come from California rivers, primarily the Sacramento. Green sturgeon have been blocked from access to portions of the Sacramento River, putting the population at some risk due to limited potential spawning areas.

Additional Information

- Green sturgeon that spawn in the Sacramento River are genetically different than green sturgeon that spawn in the Rogue River. This distinction is the reason for two separate species management units
 - Green sturgeon spend most of their lives in marine waters. Radio-tagged fish from the Southern SMU have been found from Willapa Bay, Washington to the Sacramento River.
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Abundance – Fail

- Limited information suggests no negative (or positive) population abundance trends in Oregon populations of green sturgeon.
- Historic abundance information is unavailable.
- Current abundance information is heavily reliant on inconsistent harvests of green sturgeon captured as bycatch in target fisheries for other species.

Independence - Pass

- No hatchery produced green sturgeon are present in Oregon waters.