

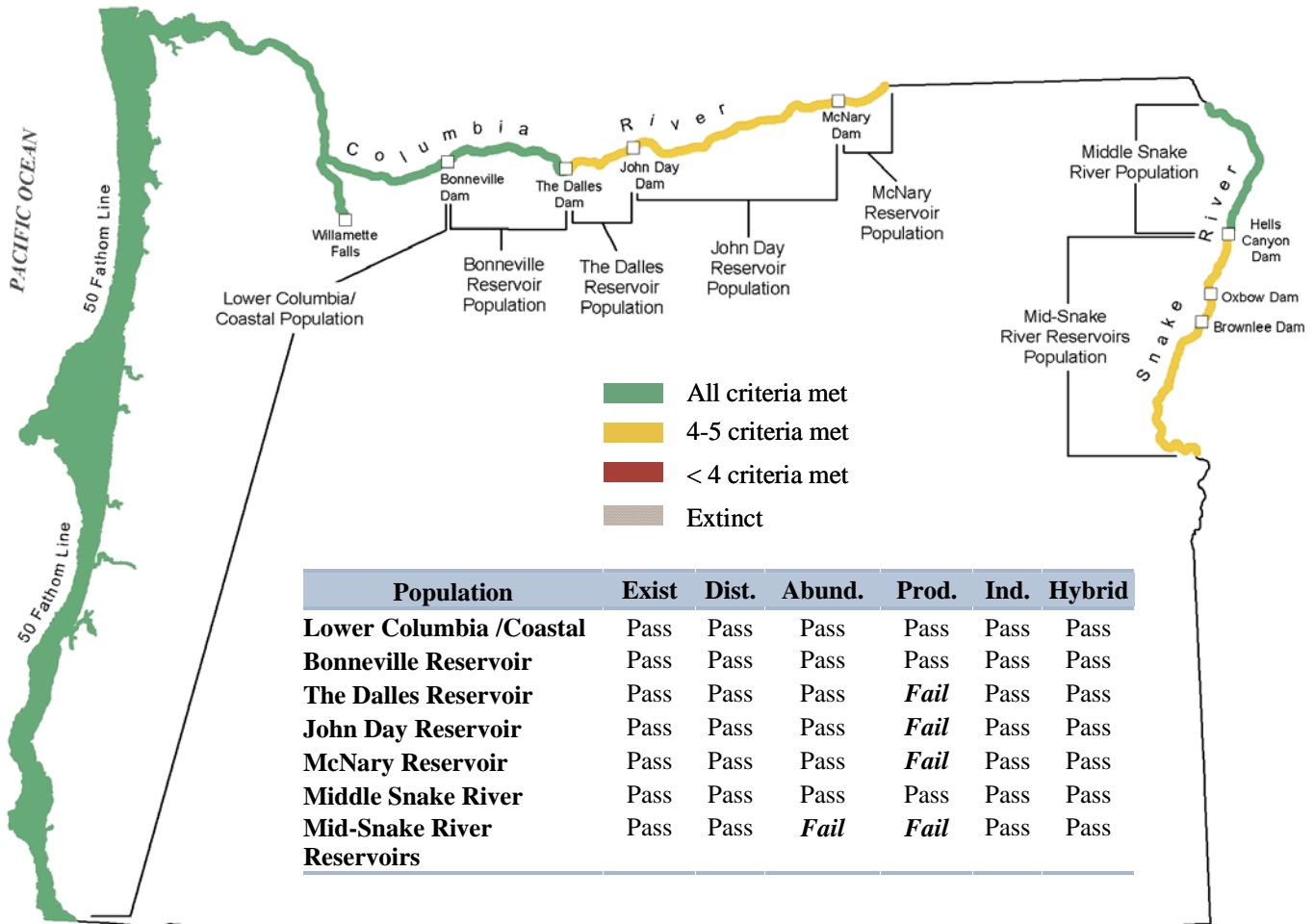
Oregon White Sturgeon SMU

ESA Designation:
Not Listed

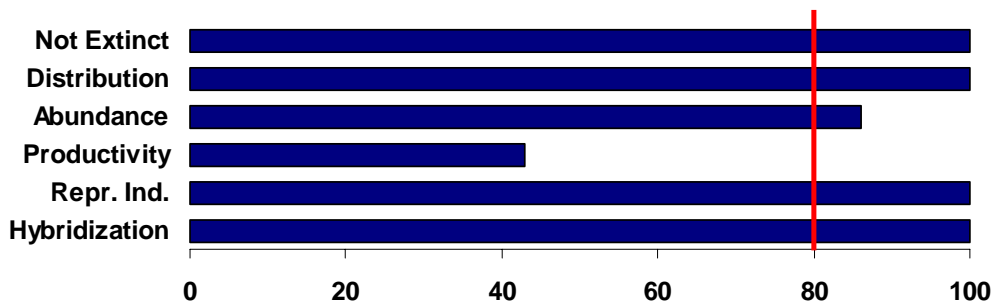
State Status:
Not Listed

Interim Assessment:
Not Assessed

For this report, white sturgeon in Oregon were considered to all belong to one SMU. This Oregon White Sturgeon SMU is broken into seven populations. Populations were grouped according to similarities in biology and management strategies. White sturgeon are present in the Willamette River above Willamette Falls, but are believed to be entirely supported by hatchery stocking and were not considered to be a population. 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.



Percent of Populations Meeting Criteria



Distribution - Pass

- White sturgeon remain present in all historic habitats and ranges.
- Passage of white sturgeon at fish ladders is typically low and occurs in a net downstream direction. Less upstream passage is documented.
- All populations pass this criterion.

Productivity - Fail

- Productivity is poor in half of the populations for which data were available.
- Measures of productivity are poorer in impounded reaches than in unimpounded areas.
- Inconsistent seasonal water flows and a corresponding lack of available, suitable spawning habitat are primary reasons for poor productivity in impounded populations.

Additional Information

- White sturgeon do not mature and begin reproducing until they are 15 - 20 years old. This equates to a size of over five feet. Length restrictions in the fisheries ensure that almost all fish of reproducing age are released.
 - Because white sturgeon are primarily found in the Columbia and Snake rivers, Oregon co-manages white sturgeon with Washington, Idaho and Native American tribes.
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Abundance - Pass

- White sturgeon populations in Oregon outside the Middle Snake River Reservoirs are relatively abundant and at low, near-term extinction risk, with six of seven populations passing this criterion.
- Harvest fisheries are currently allowed on most sturgeon populations in Oregon,
- Population monitoring of the Lower Columbia River population is marginal and available information is limited. Fisheries on this population are the largest sturgeon fisheries in the world.
- Limited information suggests white sturgeon populations in the Middle Snake River Reservoirs are at remnant abundance levels and are at high risk due to low abundances and unhealthy stock structure.

Independence - Pass

- Small numbers of hatchery-reared white sturgeon have been released within the SMU for research purposes, but in low numbers that are not believed to have impacted the populations.