*Washington State Steelhead Status Review.*

Pacific Coast Steelhead Management Meeting

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Washington State steelhead are classified into seven Distinct Population Segments (DPSs) by the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Some DPSs are limited to Washington. However, most include bordering states such as Oregon and Idaho as well as British Columbia, Canada.

The Olympic Peninsula and Southwest Washington DPSs are considered *Not Warranted* for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by NOAA.

The Lower and Middle Columbia River DPSs and Snake River Basin DPS are listed as *Threatened*. The Upper Columbia River ESU was down-listed from *Endangered* status to *Threatened* by NOAA in June 2009.

In May 2007, steelhead stocks in the Puget Sound DPS were listed as *Threatened* under ESA.

Recent total run size data of wild steelhead shows a slight increase for Puget Sound winter-run stocks, and rebounding winter-runs in the Olympic Peninsula and Southwest Washington DPS populations. Lower Columbia winter and summer stocks continue to be chronically under-escaped.

Wild summer steelhead stocks in the Yakima River of the Middle Columbia River DPS, and the Methow/Okanogan and Wenatchee rivers in the Upper Columbia River DPS show an increasing trend. Their numbers mirror the trend in the passage of wild steelhead over Bonneville and Priest Rapids dams on the Columbia River and over Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake River.

The Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission has set policy direction twice for the development of Wild Steelhead Management Zones (WSMZ) and Hatchery Reform for steelhead. The Statewide Steelhead Management Plan (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/fisheries/steelhead/management_plan.html>) and the Hatchery and Fishery Reform Policy (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/commission/policies/c3619.html>) provide this direction. A public process has been established to develop recommendations for:

* Hatchery program modification
* Recommendations of wild populations for WSMZ inclusion
* Continuation of sustainable fishing opportunities where appropriate

For Puget Sound steelhead (ESA-listed as threatened), the federally-sponsored Technical Recovery Team (TRT) has identified 32 historical demographically independent populations within three major population groups. Documentation of these results can be reviewed at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/Recovery-Domains/Puget-Sound/PS-stlhd.cfm>. Population designations serve as the template for recovering a sustainable DPS. The TRT is determining viability criteria and targets, and draft recommendations will be available in mid-2012.