

Title: California Steelhead: Management News and Stock Status Update

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Abstract

California has six Distinct Population Segments (DPS) of steelhead as determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Currently, four DPS are listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and one is listed as endangered. Since our last meeting in 2018, several important steelhead management actions have occurred. NMFS and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) each received a petition to list summer steelhead in the Northern California DPS as endangered under the Federal and State ESA, respectively. NMFS determined that listing Northern California summer steelhead as endangered was not warranted. CDFW has recently completed a status review which is currently under review by the director's office and will be delivered to the California Fish and Game Commission in April. Other management news includes the following: NMFS is finalizing 5-year status updates for the five ESA listed California steelhead DPS, CDFW and NMFS have finalized a new monitoring framework for steelhead in Southern California, and a multi-agency consortium recently conducted a workshop toward developing a new monitoring framework for Central Valley steelhead in the San Joaquin watershed.

Overall, stocks throughout the state remain depressed. Steelhead report card data indicate that the recent total annual number of trips per year and steelhead caught have improved since 2016.