

2021 PSMFC Steelhead Management Meeting

Presentation Abstract: Stock Status of Steelhead in Washington

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There are seven steelhead distinct population segments (DPS) in Washington. Five DPS are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which include populations in Puget Sound, Lower Columbia, Middle Columbia, Upper Columbia, and Snake River Basin, and two populations primarily on the Washington Coast including the Olympic Peninsula and Southwest Washington DPS that are not listed for ESA protection. The trend in adult steelhead abundance/escapement since ESA listing and status (5 year geometric mean of abundance compared to the recovery goal) were analyzed to determine stock status as part of the 2020 State of Salmon in Watersheds report available at: <https://stateofsalmon.wa.gov/>. The results for ESA listed populations were: 1) Puget Sound steelhead were “In Crisis” - defined as a future status less than 25% of the recovery abundance goal, 2) Upper and Middle Columbia steelhead were – “Not Keeping Pace” – defined as future status less than 25% of the recovery goal with abundance less than 100% of the recovery goal, and 3) Lower Columbia steelhead were “Approaching Goal” – defined as the future status is greater than the recovery abundance goal. Continued population specific “all H” management actions are needed to improve the status of ESA listed and non-listed steelhead in Washington State.