

Board of Forestry

July 24, 2019

Comments of Bob Van Dyk For Wild Salmon Center

Coast coho populations are not increasing.



Explorer » Coho »
Oregon Coast

Stratum

- North Coast
- Mid-Coast
- Lakes
- Mid-South Coast
- Umpqua

Oregon Coast (ESU)

The Oregon Coast Coho Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) encompasses Oregon coastal watersheds from the Necanicum River in the north to the Sixes River in the south.

According to the Oregon Workgroup of the [Oregon Northern California Coast Technical Recovery Team](#) (TRT), the Oregon Coast Coho ESU is comprised of a total of 56 historical populations. Thirteen populations are identified as functionally independent, eight as potentially independent, and 35 as dependent populations. For more information on the Oregon Coast Coho ESU population structure see [Lawson et al. 2007](#).

Currently, Oregon Coast coho are listed as threatened under the United States Endangered Species Act. In 2007, based on guidance provided by ODFW's Native Fish Conservation Policy, the State of Oregon completed the [Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan](#). The plan establishes benchmarks or "measurable criteria" designed to facilitate tracking of progress towards goals for abundance, persistence, productivity, distribution and diversity of Oregon Coast coho populations as well as the condition of their habitat. With the exception of spawner abundance, the goals established for

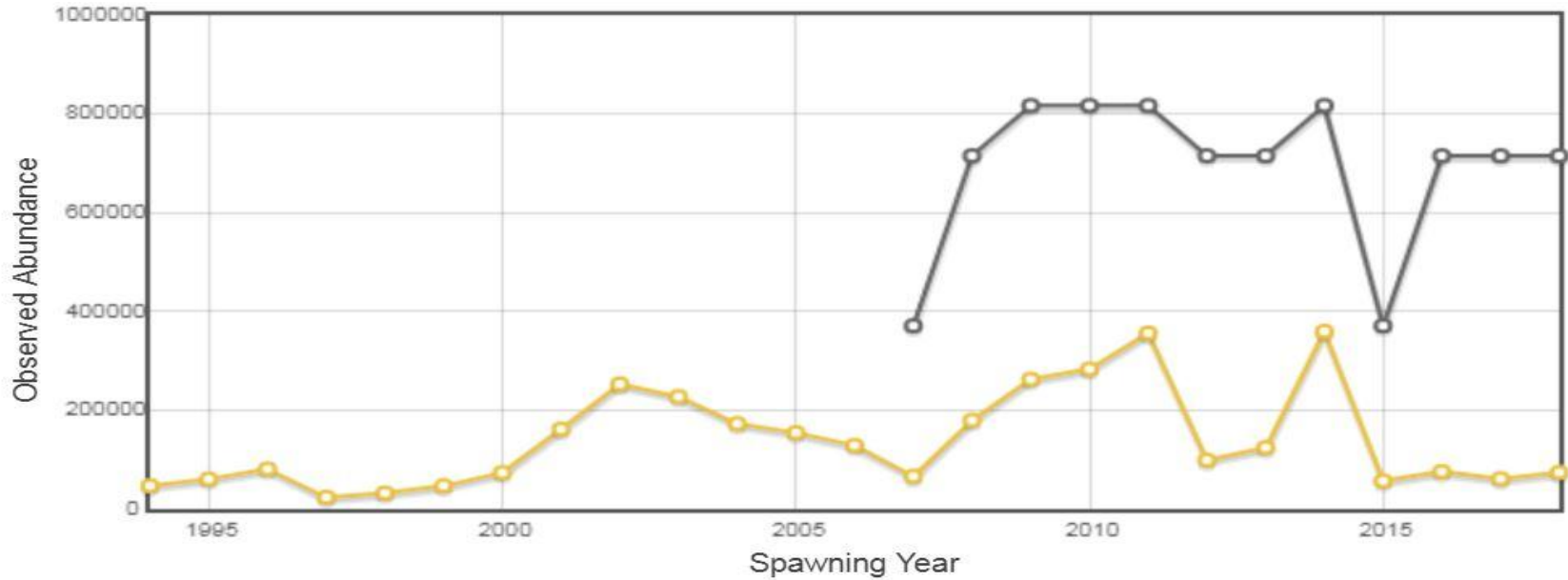


Oncorhynchus kisutch

Abundance

Annual estimates of the abundance of naturally-produced spawners.

Trend Performance Pass/Fail



AGENDA ITEM A
Abundance Goal
Attachment 17
Page 4 of 11
Nat. Origin Spawners

Concern on lack of clarity in option 3.

plans – fees, exemption from sending written plans to department or revenue or county assessors

■ [OAR 629-676: Forest Practices Administration - Regional Forest Practice Committees](#)

Includes: Regional forest practice committee responsibilities; member qualifications, appointments, organization; conduct of meetings

■ [OAR 629-680: Resource Site Inventory and Protection Process Rules](#)

Includes: Resource site defined for the purpose of a hearing, reporting, process for board evaluation of threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species that use resource sites that are sensitive to forest practices, process for board listing and de-listing species that use sensitive bird nesting, roosting, and watering sites; criteria to identify sensitive bird nesting, roosting, and watering sites; process for determining forest practices conflicts and consequences - protection requirements for the resource site, significant wetland types, protection goal for biological sites, process to inventory a biological site, biological sites criteria

629-680-0000

Purpose

(1) OAR 629-680-0000 to 0430 shall be known as the Resource Site Inventory and Protection Process Rules.

(2) The purpose of the rules in OAR 629, division 680 is to set criteria to inventory and protect special resources described in ORS 527.710(3)(a) on forestlands regulated by the Forest Practices Act. Forests make a vital contribution to Oregon by providing jobs, products, tax base and other social and economic benefits, by helping to maintain forest tree species, soil, air and water resources, and by providing a habitat for wildlife and aquatic life. Consistent with 527.630, it is the policy of these rules to encourage economically efficient forest practices that assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species and the maintenance of forestland for such purposes as the leading use on privately owned land, consistent with sound management of soil, air, water and fish and wildlife resources that assures the continuous benefits of those resources for future generations of Oregonians.

Definitions

In addition to the definitions listed in OAR 629-600-0100, as used in OAR 629, division 680:

(1) “Critical period of use” means the time of year the State Forester determines a species is sensitive to disturbance at a resource site.

(2) “Disturbance” means actions which cause birds to flush from the resource site.

(3) “Endangered species” means any fish or wildlife species identified as “endangered” on lists that are adopted, by rule, by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission or are federally listed as “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended.

(4) “Listed species” means a species adopted by the Board under OAR 629-680-0200.

(5) “Site productivity” means the ability of a resource site to produce the benefits for which it is being protected. As an example, nesting site productivity is measured by the number of young birds successfully raised. For a roosting site, productivity is measured by the number of birds roosting over a given time. Watering site productivity is measured by the number of band-tailed pigeons that visit the resource site over a given time.

(6) “Threatened species” means any fish or wildlife species identified as “threatened” on lists that are adopted, by rule, by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission or are federally listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended.

Reporting

The department shall review the resource site rules for sensitive bird nesting, roosting and watering sites; for threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species; and for significant wetlands to determine if protection levels are effective. Every two years the department shall report to the Board:

- (1) The number and types of operations conducted adjacent to, or within, resource sites.
- (2) The productivity of a sample of resource sites, including an evaluation of the success of the applied protection levels and an assessment of the economic impacts.
- (3) The number of structural and temporal exceptions requested; the number of exceptions permitted and denied; when exceptions are permitted, any disagreement to the exception on the part of the Department of Fish and Wildlife; and the reasons for granting or denying the exceptions.
- (4) The number of approved alternate plans for each significant wetland type.
- (5) Recommended changes to protection rules.
- (6) Research needed to further evaluate the protection levels.

Process for Board Evaluation of Threatened and Endangered Fish and Wildlife Species that Use Resource Sites that Are Sensitive to Forest Practices

(1) When a species is listed as threatened or endangered by state or federal authorities, the Board shall adopt rules to protect resource sites that are used by those species and that are sensitive to forest practices. The following process shall be used when the Board develops protection rules for these resource sites:

(a) The Board's evaluation shall be based on the best available information summarized in a technical review paper. The paper must be submitted by those proposing protection for resource sites used by a threatened or endangered species. The paper may be written by the State Forester, another agency, an organization or a person. The paper shall demonstrate how the resource sites are sensitive to forest practices. The paper may rely upon information used during the listing process and must:

- (A) Identify the resource sites used by the species;
- (B) Identify forest practices that conflict with the resource sites;
- (C) Evaluate the biological consequences of the identified conflicts; and
- (D) Propose protection requirements and exceptions for the resource sites.

(b) The State Forester shall review the technical paper submitted under subsection (1)(a) of this rule. The review shall include an evaluation of the literature used, consultation with technical experts and a technical review by experts chosen by the State Forester. The State Forester shall submit a report of this review to the Board.

Going forward

- Discretion in resource site process -- what to identify, how to resolve conflicts
- Goal is to add value to other projects
- Interest in working with Board, Staff, other stakeholders