

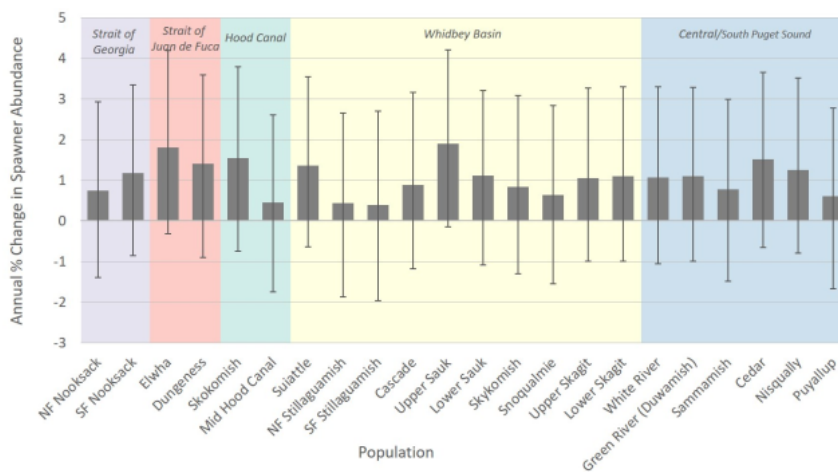
PUGET SOUND VITAL SIGNS

INDICATOR NUMBER OF NATURAL-ORIGIN CHINOOK SALMON ON SPAWNING GROUNDS

This indicator evaluates the abundance values and their trends of the 22 Chinook salmon populations from five Puget Sound regions as measured by the number of natural-origin adult fish on the spawning grounds. Abundance estimates here do not include hatchery-origin fish (with few exceptions) or Chinook taken in harvest or by predators like orcas. The indicator is intended to reflect the goal of achieving wild population recovery of Puget Sound Chinook, which are federally listed as threatened.

Indicator
Progress

Target
Status



Annual percent change in Chinook salmon population spawner abundance from 1999 to 2019 for each Puget Sound population, shown by geographic region. The lines show the 25th to 75th Credibility Intervals (CIs).

These represent a range of values the true annual percent change likely falls within. All CIs contain zero meaning no change in spawner abundance over the time period is possible for all populations.

Target

By 2050, all Chinook salmon populations increase, and at least 50 percent of the populations reach their recovery goals.

[Target fact sheet](#)

Data Source

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Salmon Population Indicators (SPi) abundance data

Northwest Fisheries Science Center. 2015. Status review update for Pacific salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act: Pacific Northwest.

Key Vital Sign Indicator Results

- There is little to no sign of recovery of Puget Sound Chinook populations in each biogeographic region. On the other hand, the majority of populations have not decreased significantly in abundance since the time Chinook salmon were listed as threatened under the ESA in 1999. Therefore, our conclusion about progress of the populations of Puget Sound Chinook salmon is “Not Improving”.
- Estimates of population spawner abundance of the 22 Puget Sound Chinook populations have changed very little since the baseline reference period when the populations were listed in 1999.
- While most populations remain far below their recovery planning targets adopted by NOAA Fisheries, some are doing better. For instance, the recent 5-year abundance geomean for Suiattle River spring Chinook salmon is at 103% of its low productivity planning target for abundance. Upper Sauk River spring Chinook salmon and Upper Skagit River summer Chinook salmon are at 43% and 37%, respectively, of their low productivity planning targets.
- The Puget Sound Partnership 2020 recovery target to stop the overall decline in Puget Sound Chinook salmon abundance has been met; however, the recovery target for improvements in wild Chinook abundance across biogeographic regions has not been met.

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Contributing Partners

