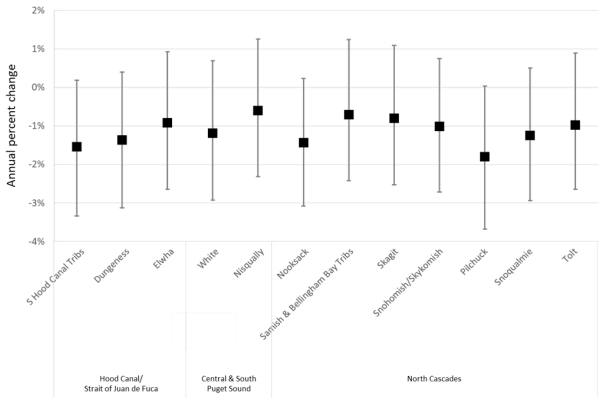
PUGET SOUND
VITAL SIGNS

INDICATOR
NUMBER OF NATURAL-ORIGIN PUGET SOUND STEELHEAD ON SPAWNING GROUNDS

This indicator evaluates the abundance and trend of the 32 steelhead populations by measuring the number of natural-origin adult fish on the spawning grounds of three Puget Sound regions. Abundance estimates here do not include hatchery-origin fish or steelhead taken in harvest or by predators like orcas. The indicator is intended to reflect the goal of achieving wild population recovery of Puget Sound steelhead, which are federally listed as threatened.



Annual percent change in steelhead spawner abundance from 2007 (year of Endangered Species Act listing) to 2023 for 12 Puget Sound populations, shown by geographic region. Abundance data were not available at the necessary spatial scale for other Puget Sound steelhead populations. The lines show the 25th to 75th credibility intervals (CIs). CIs represent a range of values the true annual percent change likely falls within. CIs for all populations contain zero, suggesting no statistically significant change in spawner abundance from 2007 to 2023.

Key Vital Sign Indicator Results

- There is no sign of recovery of Puget Sound steelhead populations in any biogeographic region. However, no populations have decreased significantly in abundance since steelhead were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2007 (i.e., the credibility intervals for all populations overlap with zero in the percent change figure). Therefore, our conclusion about progress of the populations of Puget Sound steelhead is “No Trend.”
- All Puget Sound steelhead populations are currently well below their recovery planning targets adopted by NOAA Fisheries (see the indicator map). Most populations remain between zero and 15% of their planning targets. However, the recent 5-year abundance geomean for Elwha and Skagit river steelhead is at 49% and 30%, respectively, of their low productivity planning target for abundance.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Washington Department of FISH & WILDLIFE

Indicator Trend

NO TREND

Target

No targets are currently set for this indicator.

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.

Vital Sign Indicator Reporter

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Indicator Details

Click below for more information about this indicator, including Maps, Charts, Indicator Importance, Methods, Interpretation of Results, and Additional Resources.

Complete Indicator Report

Last Updated

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