

STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA - DISCOVERY BAY COHO

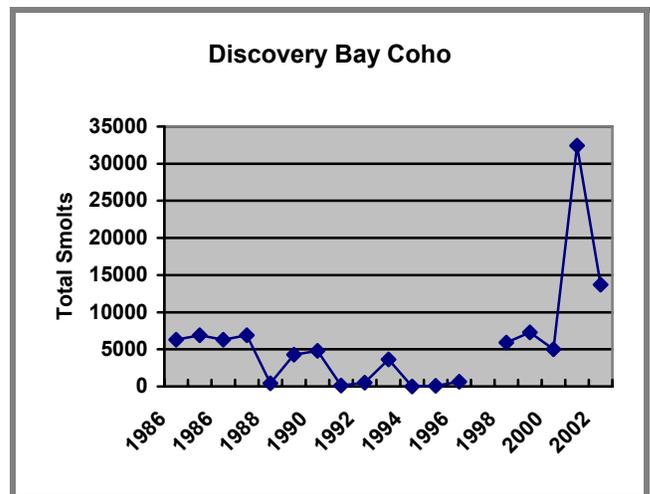
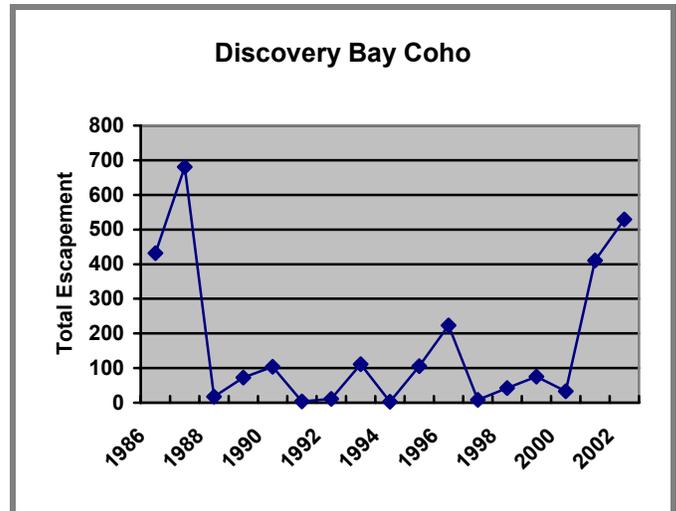
STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS Critical	2002 STATUS Critical
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STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: *Good*

BROOD YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT	TOTAL SMOLTS
1986	432	6,296
1987	681	6,915
1988	17	448
1989	73	4,300
1990	104	4,787
1991	4	117
1992	11	495
1993	111	3,657
1994	3	3
1995	106	783
1996	223	632
1997	8	No data
1998	42	5,897
1999	75	7,302
2000	33	5,438
2001	411	32,434
2002	529	13,718



Data are total adult escapement estimates and smolt numbers based on counts at the WDFW Snow Creek Research Station upstream/downstream migrant trap at RM 0.8.

Since 1994 adult escapement and juvenile production levels have been very low. A formal recovery program was initiated in 1998, using Snow Creek coho as the donor stock for a supplementation program. In 1998 through 2000, nearly all returning natural-origin coho adults (25 to 30 pairs each year) were collected and spawned at the Snow Creek facility.

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Juvenile releases from the supplementation program resulted in a significant increase in total coho smolt production for the 1998, 1999 and 2000 brood years. The escapement in 2001 was over 400 coho adults, which represents the first adult returns from the supplementation program. About 30 pairs were collected for broodstock in 2001, and the rest were allowed to spawn naturally.

Initial results of the recovery program are encouraging, but it will take several more years to see if the coho population can become self-sustaining. The status of the stock remains **Critical** in 2002 because of **chronically low** escapements.

STOCK DEFINITION

Discovery Bay coho were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning ground distribution.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place in the Snow Creek and Salmon Creek watersheds. Some spawning also takes place in the lower portions of Contractors and Eagle creeks.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from late October to early January.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: No genetic analysis has been done on Discovery Bay coho, but samples have been collected for DNA analysis.

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. Relatively small numbers of Dungeness Hatchery-origin coho were released into Discovery Bay tributaries beginning in 1965. This stock is likely a mixture of the native stock and non-native stocks introduced into these drainages.