

STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA - DUNGENESS COHO

STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS Depressed	2002 STATUS Unknown
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STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

There are no abundance trend data for Dungeness coho, so their status is **Unknown** in 2002. The 1992 rating of Depressed was based on an escapement estimate indicator derived from other Strait of Juan de Fuca tributaries that were expanded to a Strait total estimate then partitioned out to individual population aggregates based on individual watershed areas. The Strait total estimates, derived from surveys in small independent tributaries, may not reflect conditions in the Dungeness River. The Dungeness has a much larger flow volume and different annual flow regime from most other eastern Strait tributaries because of its hydrologic connection to runoff from snowfields in the Olympic Mountains.

There are limited recent-year estimates of smolt production for some streams in the Dungeness area. They suggest significant natural production in the Dungeness River watershed and very limited smolt production in two other tributaries in the stock unit.

STOCK DEFINITION

Dungeness coho were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution. Stock identification is supported by recent genetic analysis.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place in accessible portions of the Dungeness and Gray Wolf rivers and their tributaries. Spawning also occurs in Bell and Cassalery creeks, independent tributaries near the Dungeness.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from November to early January.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Allozyme analysis of a collection of Dungeness Hatchery coho made in 1987 shows that this stock is significantly different from all other Washington coho stocks examined (David Teel, NMFS, personal communication).

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. Streams in this area have been heavily planted with non-native coho. Annual off-station yearling releases occurred between 1952 and 1981 using Soos Creek (Green River), Kendall Creek (Nooksack River), Toutle, Elwha and Puyallup hatchery stocks. This stock is likely a mixture of the native stock and the introduced non-native stocks.