

# STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA - ELWHA COHO

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## STOCK STATUS

<b>1992 STATUS</b> Healthy	<b>2002 STATUS</b> Unknown
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## STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

There are no abundance trend data for Elwha coho, so their status is **Unknown** in 2002. The 1992 rating of Healthy 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 Elwha River. The Elwha has a much larger flow volume and different annual flow regime the most other eastern Strait tributaries resulting from its hydrologic connection to runoff from snowfields in the Olympic Mountains. These differences are compounded by the presence of two large dams on the mainstem Elwha.

## STOCK DEFINITION

Elwha coho were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Spawning is confined to the lower 4.9 miles of the Elwha, below the Elwha Dam.

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

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** No genetic analysis has been done on this stock.

## STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. Streams in this area have been heavily planted with non-native coho. Releases include Elwha, Dungeness and Soos Creek (Green River) hatchery stocks. Homing of returning adults back to the Elwha Hatchery rack is limited, and many hatchery-origin fish spawn in the river. In addition, there is no attempt or ability to differentiate between natural- and hatchery-origin coho during the hatchery broodstocking activities, hence the composite nature of the stock.