

# SOOES/OZETTE – SOOES/WAATCH COHO

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## STOCK STATUS

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

The only population data currently available are tribal in-river commercial net fishery catches and hatchery rack return information. In-river catches are not thought to represent inter-annual changes in the spawning population, due to the presence of a significant hatchery coho program in the river basin. Much of the annual terminal fishery harvest each year likely results from hatchery program returns, and therefore is not directly reflective of changes in natural origin spawning abundance or natural stock productivity. Hatchery rack return data does not have direct applicability to rating the status of the natural spawning population in the Sooes and Waatch rivers, since it only summarizes returns to the hatchery rack. This stock status is therefore again rated **Unknown**.

## STOCK DEFINITION

Sooes/Waatch coho were defined as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Spawning takes place throughout the mainstem of the Sooes River and tributaries such as Holden, Colby, 30 Cent, Miller, Grimes, Shafter, Snag and Pilchuck creeks.

**SPAWNING TIMING:** Spawning generally occurs from mid-October through January.

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** Genetic analysis has not been done on Sooes/Waatch coho.

## STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. Lake Quinault and Quilcene stocks were previously planted into the Sooes River to mitigate for the extermination of all migrating salmonid juveniles from the river in the parent cohort brood years, in an attempt to address a perceived disease concern. Despite the influence of these plants, Sooes coho are thought to be primarily of natural origin. This stock is derived from native coho brood stock from the Makah National Fish Hatchery on the Sooes River.