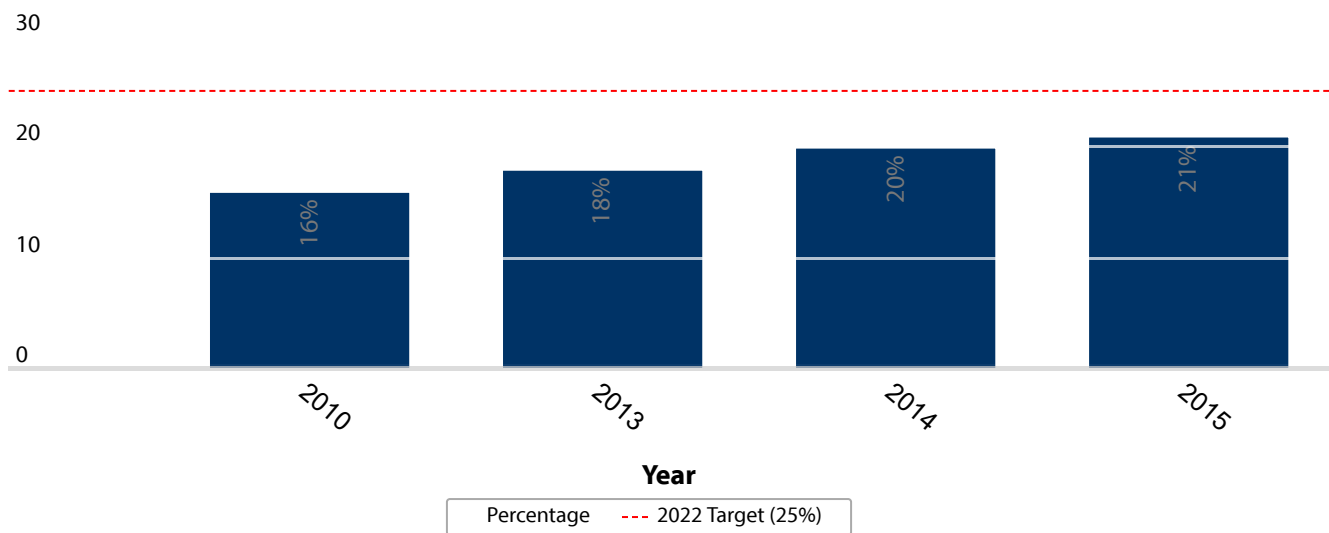




2.2: Increase the percentage of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead populations at healthy, sustainable levels from 16% to 25% by 2022



Supplemental Report

[December 2016](#)

Why is this a priority?

- Salmon are an icon of the Northwest culture and the foundation of the health of our watersheds. If the salmon are not doing well, our watersheds are not doing well, and neither are we. Currently, more than 75% of Washington State has one or more species of ESA-listed salmon. Our rich natural heritage is at risk, and communities across the state face economic disruption.
- Nearly half (45%, 15 of 33 species and runs) of the salmon and steelhead populations in Washington are listed as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered

Species Act (ESA). If Washington is to federally de-list salmon and steelhead, and bring them back to healthy and harvestable levels, then we need to track the current status and long term trends of the populations, as well as identify and alleviate the factors that led to their initial or continuing decline.

How are we doing?

Currently, 21% of the individual salmon and steelhead populations (i.e., individual watersheds) across the state are at or above their recovery goal and showing an increasing trend. This measure is on target to achieve the 25% goal by 2022.

At the federal recovery or evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) scale, the [2014 State of the Salmon in Watersheds report provided the following assessment](#):

- Two ESU's (13%) are increasing in abundance and are also at or above the abundance recovery goal;
- Four ESU's (27%) are slightly increasing in abundance but still well below the recovery goal;
- Five ESU's (33%) show no change in abundance and are well below the recovery goal;
- Three ESU's (20%) are slightly decreasing in abundance and also are below their recovery goal; and,
- One ESU (7%) has insufficient data.

Key Challenges

Continued degradation of salmon habitat: For example, a recent National Marine Fisheries Service review of recovery plan implementation status indicates that the quality of Puget Sound Chinook salmon habitat is still declining, and protection of remaining habitat needs improvement.

Federal funding reductions: Since 2012 NOAA's federal support for Washington State's salmon fisheries and salmon conservation has been declining. Federal government obligations to maintaining sustainable fisheries on the west coast are inextricably linked to:

- the installation of federal hydropower facilities on major Pacific Northwest rivers;
- the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty;
- federal court orders and obligations associated with federally recognized Indian tribes and Treaty Tribes;
- Endangered Species Act listings, and
- federal responsibilities associated with fisheries managed pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in the exclusive economic zone.

What are we working on?

Our state's strategy for salmon recovery recognizes that we will not be successful without the support of Washington's citizens, and that we must coordinate hatchery, harvest, habitat, and hydro actions to work together toward clear salmon recovery and sustainable fishery goals.

Key Strategies

- Maintain federal funding for salmon recovery.
- Secure capital funds to remove fish passage barriers and reduce risks of hatcheries to wild fish.
- Improve habitat protection by promoting improved compliance with existing state and federal statutes and, where necessary, seek enhanced authority.
- Enhance funding to aggressively to implement sustainable fishery and hatchery management practices.

How can you help?

Get involved in salmon recovery! Recovering and protecting salmon starts with each of us in our local communities. From working to ensure your local land use decisions reflect the local salmon recovery plans, helping with habitat restoration projects, to following important fishery protection regulations:

- Helping with salmon habitat recovery projects
(http://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon_recovery/what_you_can_do.shtml)
- Understanding and supporting land use plans that protect salmon habitat
(<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/>)
- Understanding and following fishery protection regulations
(<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon.html>)

We also encourage to you to participate in the organizations that are partnering with us to achieve this measure (<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/score/score/recovery/partners.jsp>)

Where to get more information?

For additional information and charts: click on the web link/s below to view Supplemental Reports:

[December 2015 Goal Council report-out](#)

[April 27, 2016 Improvement Project: Water Quality/Salmon Recovery Grant & Loan Alignment \(Governor's Results Review report-out\)](#)

Action Plan

Problem / Opportunity	Strategies	Task	Due Date
<p>Many salmon and steelhead populations in Washington State are in decline and have been federally listed as threatened or endangered. Evaluating the long term trends and short term status in population abundance is necessary to evaluate recovery progress.</p> <p>Measure # 2.2.</p> <p>Partner Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), Governor's Salmon</p>	<p>Key strategies in recovery include: 1) Maintain federal funding for salmon recovery 2) Participate on the Puget Sound steelhead recovery team 3) Develop steelhead population abundance goals for the recovery team 4) Secure legislative funding to complete year two research and test interim solutions to low early marine survival for Puget Sound steelhead 5) Secure capital funds to remove fish passage barriers and reduce risks of hatcheries to wild fish 6) Improve habitat</p>	<p>Report the number and percentage of populations meeting recovery goals and predict the anticipated progress towards the goal of 25% by 2020.</p> <p>Expected Results Tracking the progress population by population will help focus restoration and management actions.</p>	<p>01/15/2016 12:00:00 AM</p> <p>Status On Track</p>

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