

Status Review of Chum Salmon for ESA Listing in Puget Sound

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In 1994, the Northwest Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received petitions to list chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) from Puget Sound as threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In response to these petitions and the more general concerns for the status of Pacific salmon throughout the region, NMFS initiated biological status reviews for all species of anadromous salmonids in the Pacific Northwest. In December 1997 the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center published a status review from the Chum Salmon Biological Review Team (BRT) that described four distinct population segments or evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) of chum salmon: Strait of Georgia/Puget Sound, Hood Canal Summer Run, Pacific Coast, and Columbia River. The BRT reviewed population abundance data and other risk factors for these ESUs and concluded that two (Hood Canal Summer Run and Columbia River) were likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. In 1999 these two ESUs were listed as threatened under the ESA. This presentation summarized both the original information from the 1997 chum salmon status review, and new information on the Hood Canal Summer Run and Columbia River ESUs received since the listing in the federal register notice.