

Northwest Fisheries Science Center  
2032 SE OSU Drive  
Newport, Oregon 97365

September 23, 2004

Dear Interested Party,

I am writing to announce the availability of an important report entitled "Identification of historical populations of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the Oregon Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit." This draft document was prepared by the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon Workgroup, a committee of the Oregon and Northern California Coast Technical Recovery Team (ONCC TRT). The ONCC TRT is an independent scientific body convened by NOAA Fisheries to develop technical delisting criteria and guidance for salmon recovery planning on the Oregon and Northern California coasts. The Workgroup is seeking a thorough technical review of this draft document and desires comments by November 15, 2004. This report is a significant step toward developing a recovery plan for Oregon Coast coho salmon.

The first action in the TRT's effort to develop delisting criteria for Oregon Coast coho salmon was to identify the historical populations of coho salmon throughout the Oregon Coast Coho Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU). The next step was to classify these populations as Functionally Independent, Potentially Independent, or Dependent to identify how we believed the populations were structured and interacted historically. These steps are important for the subsequent population and ESU viability analyses. The Workgroup identified 67 historical populations based on rule-based criteria. It is important that those reviewing this document understand the implications of this technical analysis and the TRT's continued scientific work. In short, the report identifies multiple populations of Oregon Coast coho salmon that will be the basis for an ESU-wide recovery strategy.

Thank you for your interest in Oregon Coast coho salmon. If you have any questions regarding the document, please contact Heather A. Stout at 541/867-0290 or [Heather.Stout@NOAA.gov](mailto:Heather.Stout@NOAA.gov).

Sincerely,

Peter W. Lawson, Ph.D.  
ONCC TRT co-chair