April 2016

NOAA FISHERIES

WEST COAST REGION

NOAA Fisheries' Species in the Spotlight on the West Coast

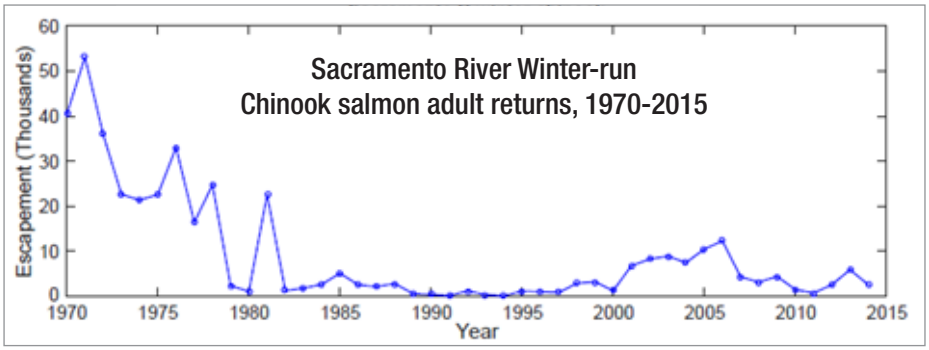
NOAA Fisheries has identified eight species most at risk of extinction nationwide in its new "Species in the Spotlight" initiative. Five of these species are found off the U.S. West Coast. The initiative aims to save and recover these highly vulnerable species by focusing on a series of key actions vital for stabilizing these populations and preventing their extinction. Collaborations with partners is critical for these efforts to be successful.

Conservation Actions & Trends for the West Coast Species

Sacramento Winter-Run Chinook Salmon

Recovery Coordinator: Brian Ellrot
brian.ellrot@noaa.gov

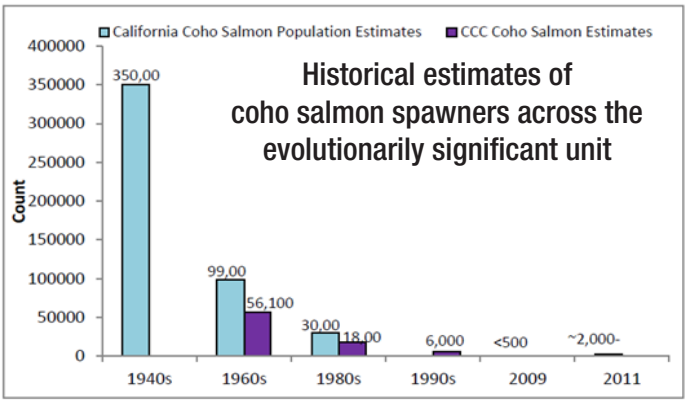
- Improve management of Shasta Reservoir cold water storage
- Battle Creek restoration and reintroduction
- Reintroduce Winter-run into the McCloud River
- Improve Yolo Bypass Fish Habitat and Passage
- Manage Delta conditions to improve juvenile survival



Central California Coast Coho Salmon

Recovery Coordinator: Erin Seghesio,
erin.seghesio@noaa.gov

- Continue and expand conservation hatchery programs to prevent extinction
- Build restoration and funding partnerships to implement priority actions in targeted locations
- Restore key habitats for conservation hatchery outplanting and to improve freshwater survival
- Adaptively manage conservation programs and restoration through monitoring and research

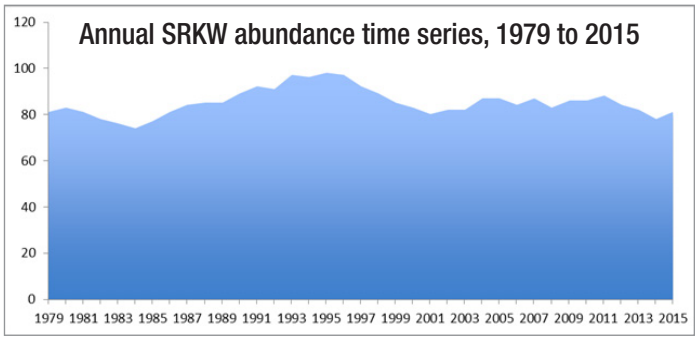


Conservation Actions & Trends for the West Coast Species

Southern Resident Killer Whale

Recovery Coordinator: Lynne Barre, *lynne.barre@noaa.gov*

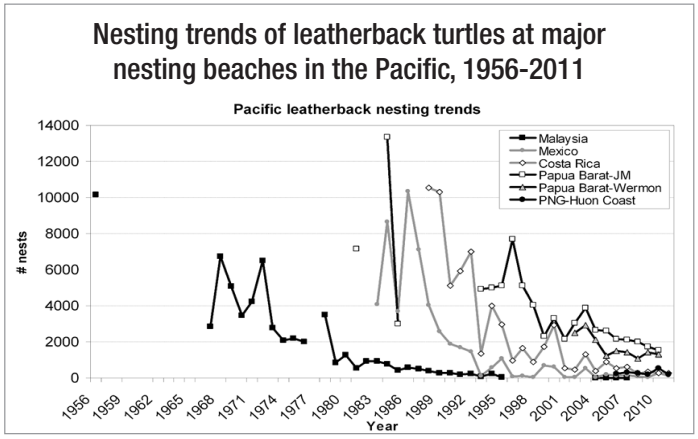
- Protect Killer Whales from harmful vessel impacts through enforcement, education, and evaluation
- Target recovery of critical prey
- Protect important habitat areas from anthropogenic threats
- Improve our knowledge of Southern Resident Killer Whale health to advance recovery
- Raise awareness about the recovery needs of Southern Resident Killer Whales and inspire stewardship through outreach and education



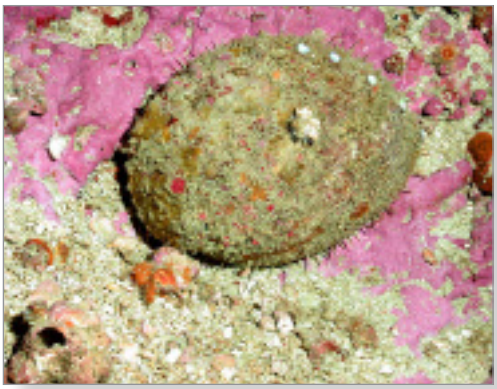
Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle

Recovery Coordinator: Alexis Gutierrez, *alexis.gutierrez@noaa.gov*

- Reduce interactions in fisheries
- Improve nesting beach protection and increase reproductive output through outreach and community support
- Cooperate with international partners to implement conservation measures and established agreements
- Understand migratory habitats and pelagic threats to better implement mitigation measures
- Raise awareness and education of actions the public can take to support Leatherback Turtle conservation



White Abalone



Recovery Coordinator: Melissa Neuman, *melissa.neuman@noaa.gov*

- Expand a conservation propagation program
- Implement a successful outplanting program
- Monitor and enhance White Abalone populations in the wild
- Identify, characterize, and prioritize existing and potential White Abalone kelp forest habitat

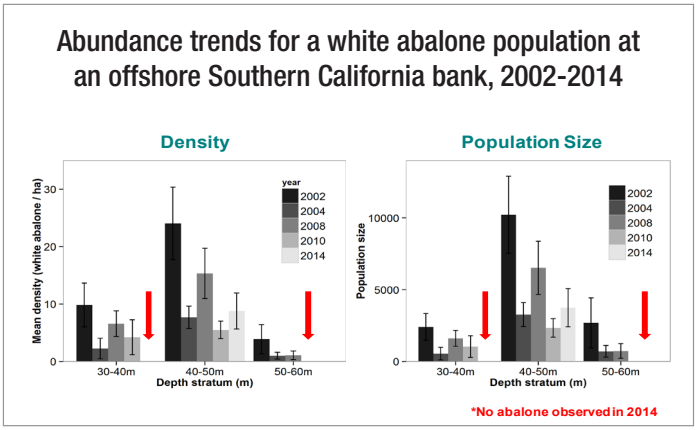



Figure note: Density at this bank has decreased across all years and within each depth stratum, resulting in a ~75% decrease in the estimated total population size between 2002 and 2014. Red arrows indicate the depth strata within which no white abalone were observed in 2014 (Stierhoff et. al. 2012; K. Stierhoff unpublished data). Status of populations in other areas that collectively comprise a majority of the species' range, remains uncertain.