



Contact: Jim Milbury  
(562) 980-4006/cell (310) 245-7114

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**NOAA PUBLISHES FINAL LISTING OF WEST COAST STEELHEAD**  
*Ten Distinct Population Segments Established*

NOAA Fisheries Service issued a final listing in today's Federal Register recognizing ten unique populations, or Distinct Population Segments (DPSs), of West Coast steelhead as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This listing was finalized after receiving public comments on proposed regulations initially published on June 14, 2004.

Population and ESA status listings are found below. Location descriptions, along with the new regulation, are on the Web at [www.nwr.noaa.gov](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov).

Southern California Steelhead DPS – Endangered

South-Central California Coast Steelhead DPS – Threatened

Central California Coast Steelhead DPS – Threatened

California Central Valley Steelhead DPS – Threatened

Northern California Steelhead DPS – Threatened

Upper Willamette River Steelhead DPS – Threatened

Lower Columbia River Steelhead DPS – Threatened

Middle Columbia River Steelhead DPS – Threatened

Upper Columbia River Steelhead DPS – Threatened

Snake River Basin Steelhead DPS – Threatened

The listing of steelhead is similar to that in the June 2004 proposed regulation although nomenclature, clarifications and area descriptions were modified as a result of public comment that was extended in June 2005 and then re-opened again for comment in November 2005.

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One change brought about by these comments is the application by NOAA Fisheries Service of the DPS policy to delineate steelhead populations rather than the Evolutionarily Significant Unit policy. The change is also consistent with Fish and Wildlife Service's approach to making listing determinations.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public. To learn more about NOAA Fisheries Service, please visit: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov).

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On the Web:

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