

Yakima Basin Coho Reintroduction

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Abstract:

The Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) is a joint project of the Yakama Nation (lead entity) and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and is sponsored in large part by the Bonneville Power Administration. The program has finished its Master Plan and completed two of the three phases. The final stage (Phase III) moves away from traditional, large, smolt releases in off channel ponds, to more variable release strategies. Phase III, incorporates adult releases, summer Parr releases and strategic small smolt releases. Over the past 20 years a localized brood stock has been developed. This brood stock will now be used to initiate our integrated recovery program in the Yakima Basin.

Phases I and II showed, smolt survival is higher during outmigration, however, smolt to adult survival in smolts lower than coho released as Parr. Additionally, spawning fidelity is higher in Parr, giving recolonization in tributaries a head start, and adult out plants have been used with high success (Temple et.al 2017). Redd counts have been monitored since 1997 and there has been increases in tributary spawning since 2007.

Temple, G. M., T. Newsome, T. D. Webster, and S. W. Coil. 2017. Evaluation of Rainbow Trout abundance, biomass, and condition following Coho Salmon reintroduction in Taneum Creek, Washington. Northwest Science 91:54-68.