

# Steelhead Endangered Species Status



Wild steelhead are an anadromous rainbow trout, which go to sea as a juvenile typically called a smolt. Steelhead differ from Pacific Salmon in their ability to spawn more than once and do not necessarily die after spawning, sometimes returning to spawn several times. This graphic illustrates the steelhead's range in the Pacific Northwest and California Coast, and is divided into 15 Distinct Population Segments (DPS). The unfortunate reality for wild steelhead is the fact that they are currently listed either as endangered, threatened, or as an area of concern in 12 of their 15 DPS. *Let's work together to reverse this trend!*

**Distinct Population Segment ... We know it's complicated, but:**

In 1996, NOAA fisheries separated West Coast wild steelhead populations into 15 Evolutionary Significant Units (ESU), or regional population groups with similar genetic, evolutionary and reproductive traits. More recently these have been defined as Distinct Population Segments (DPS). These separate distinctions allowed evaluation and listing, as necessary, of each ESU under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

