

## APPENDIX MS2013-03. OCEAN CONDITIONS AND SELECTED MANAGEMENT OPTIONS ON THE POPULATION DYNAMICS OF WENATCHEE RIVER SPRING CHINOOK SALMON

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ocean conditions have a large influence on salmon population dynamics, and predicting future impacts of climate change on salmon populations requires forecasting ocean conditions and consideration of the implications for abundance and persistence of populations. However, there is much uncertainty regarding the implications of climate change on local and basin-scale oceanography. Lacking downscaled climate-ocean models relevant to salmon, we can consider a range of ocean condition scenarios, and evaluate to what extent potential management options can compensate for poor ocean conditions. Here I apply scenarios for climate and management actions, focusing on responses of Wenatchee River spring Chinook salmon, a population listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Predictions of population responses are available from a stochastic Leslie matrix-type salmon life cycle model that combined scenarios of simulated future ocean conditions with estimated effects of management actions that affected freshwater (prespawning adults, and rearing juvenile fish), mainstem (smolt migration through the Federal hydropower system) and estuary (avian predation). Scenarios for ocean conditions consisted of alternative percentages of years when ocean conditions during early ocean entry by salmon were favorable (negative mean annual Pacific Decadal Oscillation [PDO] values) and unfavorable (positive PDO values) for survival. Compared to a benchmark scenario, median spawners and carrying capacity declined with worsened ocean conditions. When we applied management actions individually, freshwater survival increases had the strongest effect on mitigating for poor ocean conditions compared to the mainstem hydropower dam and estuary survival improvements. Taken together, both freshwater, mainstem, and estuary management actions offset the effects of some moderate declines in ocean condition, but not the poorest ocean conditions considered in these scenarios. Future salmon life cycle modeling should consider other aspects of potential future ocean conditions, such as the frequency and magnitude of bad and good PDO periods, upwelling, and ocean variability.

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### BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

Ocean conditions have a large influence on salmon population dynamics (e.g., Koslow et al. 2002; Scheuerell and Williams 2005; Wells et al. 2008; Burke et al. 2013), and predicting future impacts of climate change on salmon populations requires forecasting ocean conditions and consideration of the implications for abundance and persistence of

40 populations. These ocean conditions are a function of both regional and basin-scale  
41 processes (e.g., Mantua et al. 1997; Peterson et al. 2012). For instance, Jorgensen et al.  
42 (2013) and Crozier et al. (2013), respectively, have identified coastal upwelling and the  
43 Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) as correlates of ocean survival for Chinook salmon  
44 (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) populations in the US Pacific Northwest. Wells et al. (2008)  
45 found that Chinook salmon in the Smith River, California benefited from cool ocean  
46 temperatures and strong upwelling, wind stress, and a strong California Current. A critical  
47 question for decision makers is whether potential management actions can buffer or offset  
48 changes to these regional and basin-scale drivers that may stem from climate change.

49         There is much uncertainty regarding the implications of climate change on local and  
50 basin-scale oceanography. At the scale of the entire subarctic North Pacific Ocean,  
51 Schindler and colleagues (2008) note that increases in salmon production over the last  
52 several decades are linked to cool, productive ocean conditions, which may not persist  
53 under warming trends due to climate change. King et al. (2011) summarize potential  
54 implications of climate change in the California Current, and conceptual linkages between  
55 climate change and the potential response of Chinook salmon. King and colleagues  
56 summarize ensemble results from global circulation models, which suggest the potential  
57 for slight warming by year 2050, and some minor increases in upwelling intensity,  
58 particularly in the northern California Current. They identify risks of climate change to  
59 Chinook salmon, specifically the potential for a weakened California Current that could  
60 depress fecundity and increase mortality, and for ocean warming to favor northern  
61 populations over southern populations. These authors and Hollowed et al. (2013) note the  
62 difficulty in inferring local patterns from coarse scale global circulation models, and they  
63 point to the need for downscaled, finer resolution oceanographic modeling. Downscaled  
64 oceanographic models, forced by coarser scale global circulation models under IPCC CO<sub>2</sub>  
65 emissions scenarios, are in progress but not yet available for the marine environment. This  
66 contrasts with more extensive downscaling of global circulation models that has been  
67 applied to freshwater portions of Chinook salmon habitat (Battin et al. 2007; Crozier et al.  
68 2008; Beechie et al. 2012).

69         In lieu of downscaled climate-ocean models for salmon, we can consider a range of  
70 ocean condition scenarios, and can evaluate to what extent potential management options  
71 can compensate for poor ocean conditions for salmon. This approach is consistent with the  
72 use of scenarios for ecological assessment and planning (Millenium Ecosystem Assessment  
73 2005; Alcamo 2008) and with the need to identify management options that are robust to a  
74 range of uncertain future ocean conditions. Management options might include freshwater  
75 habitat restoration, which could improve survival of adult spawning fish and the juvenile  
76 freshwater rearing stage, modifications to hydropower operations, and a reduction in avian  
77 predation of juvenile outmigrants in the Columbia River estuary.

78         Here I apply these scenarios for climate and management actions, focusing on  
79 responses of Wenatchee River spring Chinook salmon, a population listed as endangered  
80 under the Endangered Species Act. Predictions are available from a life cycle model being  
81 developed by a team of researchers as a part of the Adaptive Management Implementation  
82 Plan (AMIP) of the 2008 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS

83 Biop) (Jorgensen et al. 2013). Life cycle models are useful tools to explore environmental  
 84 change and resource management options on species population dynamics. The 2008  
 85 FCRPS Biop used life cycle models of Pacific salmonid populations to examine the effects of  
 86 hydropower system dam operations on population viability under a range of future climate  
 87 and hydropower system operations scenarios. The AMIP, an addition to the 2008 FCRPS  
 88 Biop, called for an extension of these models to include more populations, and to include  
 89 several types of effects, including habitat mitigation actions, and climate (Zabel et al. 2013).  
 90 The work below considers habitat actions and climate, as well as management actions  
 91 related to hydropower and avian predation.

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### 93 STOCHASTIC LIFE CYCLE MODEL AND SCENARIOS

94 In this section we briefly describe the model, outline a few model scenarios, and  
 95 provide and discuss some preliminary results.

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#### 96 THE MODEL

97 The Wenatchee spring Chinook life cycle model framework is built from a Leslie  
 98 matrix age-structured population model for stream-type spring Chinook salmon (Zabel et  
 99 al. 2006; ICTRT and Zabel 2007; Jorgensen et al. 2013). It tracks population numbers  
 100 across five life stage classes through time: parr, smolts, ocean residence (from one to three  
 101 years), and tributary spawners (four and five year old fish that spent two and three years,  
 102 respectively, in the ocean). The following is a brief description of the model, but see ICTRT  
 103 and Zabel (2007) and Jorgensen et al. (2013) for more details. The model is coded and runs  
 104 in the R statistical and programming environment (R Development Core Team 2013).

105 The number of individuals at time  $t + 1$  is represented by  $\mathbf{n}$ , which is a 5 x 1 vector  
 106 of the number of individuals at each of five life stages, and is a product of a 5 x 5 transition  
 107 matrix,  $\mathbf{A}(t)$ , the dimensions of which reflect the five life stages incorporated into the model  
 108 and the entries of which change with  $t$ , and the number of individuals in each of the life  
 109 stages,  $\mathbf{n}$ , at time  $t$ :

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$$\mathbf{n}(t + 1) = \mathbf{A}(t) \cdot \mathbf{n}(t).$$

111 The elements in each row of  $\mathbf{A}(t)$  determine the transition of individuals at one life  
 112 stage progressing through to the next life stage, from one row in the  $\mathbf{n}(t + 1)$  matrix down  
 113 to the next:

114

$$\mathbf{A}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & b_4 \cdot s_A \cdot F_4(t) & s_A \cdot F_5(t) \\ s_2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & s_3(t) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & (1 - b_3) \cdot s_o & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & (1 - b_4) \cdot s_o & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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116 The  $s_i$ s are the survival probabilities of moving from one life stage to the next.  $s_2$  is the  
 117 survival probability of parr to the smolt stage (moving from one-year-old fish to two years  
 118 old).  $s_3(t)$  is the survival probability of the transition of fish from two to three years old,  
 119 the period in which fish leave freshwater and enter the estuary and ocean, corresponding  
 120 to their first year of ocean residency. The  $s_3$  term accommodates stochasticity and varies in  
 121 time and according to scenarios of climatic and ocean conditions.  $s_o$  represents the  
 122 subsequent annual probability of ocean survival, which was fixed at 0.80 (TRT and Zabel  
 123 2007). The proportion of three and four year olds leaving the ocean and returning to spawn  
 124 (their breeding propensities) are noted by  $b_3$  and  $b_4$ , thus, the proportion of three and four  
 125 year old fish remaining in the ocean is given by  $(1 - b_3)$  and  $(1 - b_4)$ .  $s_A$  is the survival of  
 126 adults from Bonneville dam to the spawning grounds, and is a product of upstream survival  
 127 through the Columbia River mainstem dam system,  $s_u$ , survival after in-river harvest,  
 128  $(1 - h_r)$ , and survival from the upper-most dam to the Wenatchee basin,  $s_{sb}$ . Fecundity in  
 129 some cases for some fish species may be different for spawning fish of different ages, and  
 130 the model can accommodate this differential with a fecundity multiplier, the  $F_i$  terms.

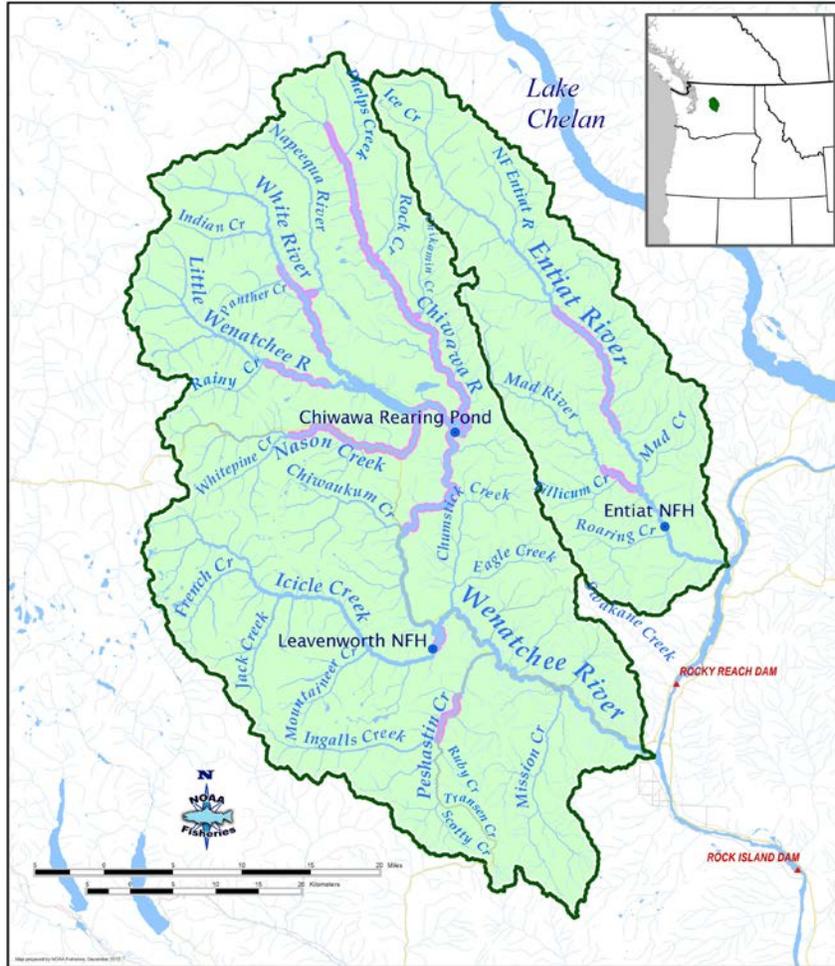
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Table 1: Parameter inputs for the Wenatchee River spring Chinook salmon matrix-type model for three major production areas: Chiwawa River, Nason Creek, and the White River.

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Chiwawa River</b>	<b>Nason Creek</b>	<b>White River</b>
Spawner( <i>t</i> ) -to- parr( <i>t</i> + 1) Beverton-Holt “ <i>a</i> ”	353.437	328.490	154.318
Spawner( <i>t</i> ) -to- parr( <i>t</i> + 1) Beverton-Holt “ <i>b</i> ”	0.000298	0.005	0.005
$\sigma^2_1$	0.412	0.600	1.04
$\phi_1$ (variance term)	0.1	---	---
Parr-smolt survival <sup>1</sup>	0.6	0.6	0.6
Hydrosystem survival	0.525	0.525	0.525
$s_3$ (first ocean year)	Stochastic variable, dependent on relationship to ocean conditions	Stochastic variable, dependent on relationship to ocean conditions	Stochastic variable, dependent on relationship to ocean conditions
$s_o$ (ocean survival for years after $s_3$ )	0.8	0.8	0.8
$b_3$ (propensity of 3 year olds to breed)	0.046	0.046	0.046
$b_4$ (propensity of 4 year olds to breed)	0.514	0.514	0.514
$h_r$ (in-river harvest rate)	0.09	0.09	0.09
$s_u$ (Bonneville-to-basin survival rate)	0.794	0.794	0.794
$s_{sb}$ (pre-spawning survival rate)	0.9	0.9	0.9
Initial abundance of 4 and 5 year old tributary spawners (geometric mean of 2008-2012 counts)	406	148	38

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<sup>1</sup>Parr-smolt survival measures survival from exiting the tributaries until reaching the mainstem Columbia, derived in original matrix model.



**Figure 1:** Wenatchee and Entiat River basins, with areas of recent spring Chinook salmon spawning and rearing indicated with highlights (in pink).

**MULTIPLE PRODUCTION AREAS**

We developed this life cycle model to incorporate three of the major fish production areas in the Wenatchee River basin representing the vast majority of fish production: Chiwawa River, Nason Creek, and the White River (Fig. 1). At the present time, we include three of these in the model: Chiwawa River (parameters as in the 2007 report, and shown in Table 1), Nason Creek, and the White River (parameters for both are reported in Table 1). The model essentially functions as though there are alternative transition matrices,  $\mathbf{A}(t,j)$ , and population vectors,  $\mathbf{n}(t,j)$ , for each production area,  $j$ , with production-area-specific parameters where appropriate or where data were available to estimate them (Table 1). As the model moves through time, each of the production areas' life stage transition survival calculations are handled separately, and the numbers of fish within the age classes in each of the  $\mathbf{n}(t,j)$  vectors were summed to create one  $\mathbf{n}(t)$  vector representing the entire Wenatchee population, which was used for calculations of overall population metrics such as the geometric mean of spawners, mean recruits per spawner, and for

153 calculations of extinction probabilities (see explanations of these in “Model Output  
 154 Response Measures” section below). As a consequence of the spatial coverage of the  
 155 model’s structure, we have implicitly begun to encompass two of several juvenile life  
 156 history strategies. For example, juveniles from Nason Creek typically migrate to and rear in  
 157 the mainstem Wenatchee River, rather than remain in their tributary to rear until they  
 158 begin to migrate to the ocean. This alternative life history strategy can often lead to  
 159 differential survival as they progress through subsequent freshwater and ocean life stages.  
 160 As we develop the model further we will more explicitly incorporate juvenile life history  
 161 variation.

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162 SPAWNER-TO-PARR TRANSITION AND SURVIVAL

163 There is density dependence built into the spawner to subsequent parr transition,  
 164 which was estimated for three of the five production areas by fitting a density-dependent  
 165 Beverton-Holt (B-H) relationship to spawners and subsequent parr,  $s_1$ ;  
 166  $parr(t + 1) = (a \cdot S(t)) / (1 + b \cdot S(t))$ . B-H estimates of “a” and “b” parameters for the  
 167 Chiwawa River fish were from the ICTRT and Zabel (2007) Wenatchee matrix-type model,  
 168 and derived by dividing recruits by the product of prespawning survival, smolt-to-adult  
 169 return rates, and parr-to-smolt survival;  $parr(t + 1) = R_t / (s_{sb} \cdot SAR_{t+2} \cdot s_{p-s})$ . Chiwawa  
 170 River estimates included a Box-Cox transformation as a way to deal with the  
 171 heteroscedasticity in the data (the  $\sigma_1^2$  and  $\phi_1$  parameters; see Zabel et al. 2006 and ICTRT  
 172 and Zabel 2007 for details). Nason Creek and White River B-H models were fitted to  
 173 spawner and parr estimates from those subbasins (Washington Department of Fish and  
 174 Wildlife, unpublished data). The short spawner and parr time series for Nason Creek and  
 175 the White River didn’t allow the Box-Cox transformation and estimation of these  
 176 parameters, thus the  $s_1$  function for these production areas was of the simpler form  
 177 without the Box-Cox transformation. In place of those in Table 1 for Nason Creek and  
 178 White River we report the variance,  $\sigma^2$ , of the B-H fits.

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179 MODEL OUTPUT RESPONSE MEASURES

180 The following model output summary metrics are reported:

- 181 •  $X$ th percentile of spawner abundance at time  $t = 100$  years, taken across runs. The  
 182 percentiles are  $X = 5\%$ ,  $50\%$  (median), and  $95\%$  ( $N_{t,5\%}$ ,  $N_{t,50\%}$ ,  $N_{t,95\%}$ ).
- 183 • Geometric mean (taken across runs) of low (L), medium (M), and high (H)  
 184 (calculated across years within a run) of spawner abundance, where  $\bar{N}_L$  = the 5th  
 185 percentile,  $\bar{N}_M$  = the 50th percentile, and  $\bar{N}_H$  = the 95th percentile within a run.
- 186 • Probability of quasi-extinction for simulations that ran  $t = 100$  years ( $pr(QE)_t$ ). We  
 187 calculated the probability that the population would fall below 50 spawners in a  
 188 moving average of four years.

189 We calculated two additional population dynamics metrics in response to these  
 190 scenarios for purposes of comparison with other reports of this model’s output on different  
 191 sets of scenarios. They included productivity at low spawner abundance and carrying

192 capacity. To calculate these metrics we first produced spawner and recruit data from model  
 193 simulations for a given scenario. We ran several iterations ( $n = 10$ ), and then combined all  
 194 these data together. We then fit the following Beverton-Holt relationship to these data:

195

$$R_t = \frac{a \cdot S_t}{1 + b \cdot S_t} \cdot \exp(\varepsilon_t), \quad \varepsilon \sim N(0, \sigma^2),$$

196 where  $R_t$  and  $S_t$  are recruits and spawners, respectively, in brood year  $t$ ,  $a$  and  $b$  are model  
 197 parameters, and with a multiplicative lognormal error term,  $\varepsilon_t$ . The parameter  $a$  represents  
 198 maximum productivity (recruits per spawner) at low abundance, and  $a/b$  represents the  
 199 maximum asymptotic recruitment. From these fits, we reported carrying capacity,  $K$ , at  
 200 equilibrium population abundance where  $R = S$ , which is equal to  $(a - 1)/b$ . In some cases  
 201  $K$  was negative which indicated unfavorable conditions, as presented in the model by  
 202 detrimental combinations of scenarios and parameter values. Negative  $K$  values were  
 203 reported as “NA.”

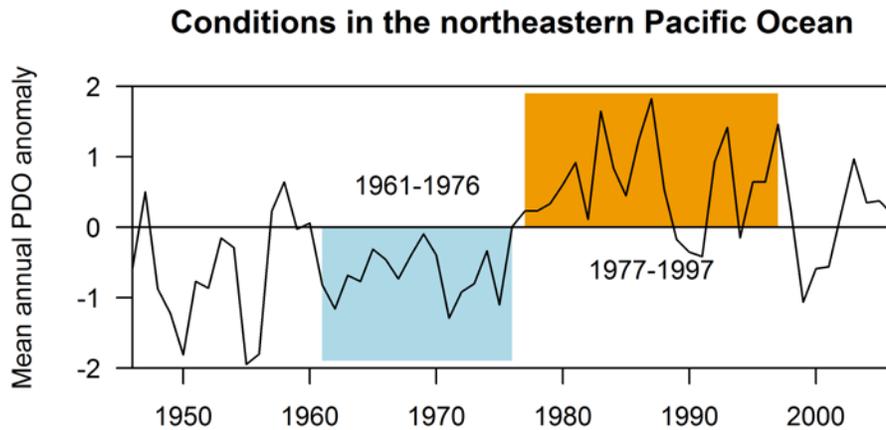
204 Taken together, these output metrics give a snapshot of the health of a population in  
 205 response to a given set of environmental and management actions.

206 We ran simulations for  $t = 100$  years and for each scenario we repeated model runs  
 207 for  $n = 1,000$  times to obtain a robust estimate of quasi-extinction probabilities.

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208 **SCENARIOS: FUTURE OCEAN CONDITIONS**

209 Ocean conditions enter the life cycle model in survival during the third year of life,  
 210  $s_3$ , when fish migrate out of their natal tributary basin and enter the estuary and ocean and  
 211 begin their ocean residency period. We do not have direct measurements of  $s_3$ , however we  
 212 can estimate it from annual measurements of smolt-to-adult survival, SAR. We estimated  $s_3$   
 213 from SAR data and, treating  $s_3$  as a response variable, we found relationships between  $s_3$   
 214 and ocean indices (ICTRT and Zabel 2007; Kendall et al. 2013). For Wenatchee spring  
 215 Chinook salmon, spring coastal upwelling (April and May; Pacific coastal upwelling index at  
 216  $45^\circ\text{N } 125^\circ\text{W}$ ) and river transit time to reach the estuary were important drivers of  $s_3$   
 217 (ICTRT and Zabel 2007; Jorgensen et al. 2013; Kendall et al. 2013).



**Figure 2:** Ocean conditions as measured by Pacific Decadal Oscillation anomalies in recent years, with relative periods of favorable (cooler ocean surface waters, 1961-1976; blue) and unfavorable (warmer ocean surface waters, 1977-1997; orange) conditions for Pacific salmon survival in the ocean used to develop scenarios of future ocean conditions.

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222 For the future ocean conditions scenarios, we developed time series of ocean indices  
223 for periods composed of differing amounts of “good” and “bad” periods as measured by the  
224 Pacific Decadal Oscillation anomaly index (PDO, Fig. 2; Mantua et al. 1997;  
225 <http://jisao.washington.edu/pdo/PDO.latest>). These time series determined third year  
226 survival,  $s_3$ . We focused on PDO as a measure of ocean conditions to remain consistent  
227 across the ocean conditions scenarios for Chinook salmon life cycle modeling included in  
228 this report (see Crozier and Zabel, this report). Negative PDO values indicate cooler  
229 northeastern Pacific Ocean surface waters and promote conditions favorable to salmon  
230 ocean survival, whereas positive PDO values indicate warmer northeastern Pacific Ocean  
231 surface waters which are associated with conditions generally unfavorable to salmon  
232 survival in the ocean (e.g., Mantua et al. 1997; Peterson et al. 2012; Fig. 2). Our time series  
233 consisted of different percentages of good and bad years taken from these time periods  
234 (Fig. 2): 20% bad; 40% bad; 60% bad; 80% bad; 100% bad. We interleaved the good and  
235 bad year blocks (approximate 15 and 20 yr blocks, respectively; Fig. 2) to achieve the  
236 desired scenario compositions for time series of 100 years in length; thus, except for the  
237 20% and 100% bad scenarios, blocks of bad and good years alternated through the series.  
238 In addition to these scenarios, we also ran a scenario encompassing good and bad periods  
239 and the intervening years (1946-2006; Jorgensen et al. 2013). During each run of 100 years  
240 in the model, the model randomly chose a starting point in the ocean time series as one  
241 part of the model’s procedure to introduce stochasticity into third year survival (ICTRT and  
242 Zabel 2007). Due to this random starting process the time series were duplicated and  
243 stacked as necessary to allow the model to complete each 100 yr run.

244 The model's procedures for estimating third year survival from ocean conditions as  
 245 well as the scenarios of future ocean conditions we describe above were the same as those  
 246 of Crozier and Zabel (this report).

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247 **SCENARIOS: MANAGEMENT LEVERS**

248 We combined future ocean conditions scenarios with several resource management  
 249 scenarios (Table 2). These included:

250 **Freshwater habitat improvements ( $s_{sb}$  and  $s_1$  survival)**

251 These parameter perturbations were used as a proxy for habitat improvements through  
 252 freshwater restoration actions in adult spawning and juvenile rearing reaches, which could  
 253 impact returning adult fish prior to spawning (prespawning mortality,  $s_{sb}$ ) and the  
 254 spawner-to-parr stage ( $s_1$ ). Presently, we are developing relationships between freshwater  
 255 habitat actions and fish survival. Therefore, habitat improvements were simulated by  
 256 increasing survival at these life stages, and as Wenatchee model development continues,  
 257 these perturbations will be replaced with relationships between freshwater habitat  
 258 characteristics and in-basin survival estimates.

259 **Improved survival in mainstem and estuary**

260 We explored population dynamics in response to improvements in downstream smolt  
 261 survival through the FCRPS dams (applied to  $s_2$ ). In the same scenario, we also applied a  
 262 multiplier on survival in the estuary (applied to  $s_3$ ) that estimated a reduction in avian  
 263 predation on smolt in the estuary (Paulsen and Zabel 2013).

264

265 **Table 2:** Resource management scenarios included in this study.

Survival stage	Change
Prespawning and spawner-parr ( $s_{sb}$ and $s_1$ ) survival <sup>1,2</sup>	+10%
FCRPS survival ( $s_2$ ) and avian predation <sup>2</sup>	+10% FCRPS, and -50% reduction in avian predation

266 <sup>1</sup>Survival changes were applied to survival of spawners from the last dam to their tributaries ( $s_{sb}$ )  
 267 and to the number of parr in  $t + 1$  produced by spawners in  $t$  ( $s_1$ ) simultaneously.

268 <sup>2</sup>No decrement was applied to these survivals.

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270 **COMBINED EFFECTS OF FUTURE OCEAN CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

271 The benchmark scenario consisted of typical regime shifts in ocean conditions  
 272 observed over the last ~60 years, with approximately 46% unfavorable and 54% favorable  
 273 years of ocean conditions for salmon from 1946-2006 as measured by the number of  
 274 positive and negative PDO anomalies (Fig. 2). Median spawner abundance over the 100  
 275 year simulations was 860 individuals. The probability of quasi-extinction was small, only

276 0.001. However, interpretation of extinction probability as presented here must be done  
277 with care. Extinction probability in this analysis was defined solely on the frequency of  
278 falling below a low abundance threshold level (below 50 spawners in a four-year moving  
279 average). Abundance is one of several metrics used to determine species viability and  
280 population persistence (McElhany et al. 2000; ICTRT 2007). Taking into account additional  
281 measures of population persistence (i.e., abundance, productivity, spatial structure, and  
282 diversity), a recent assessment rated this population to have a high risk of extinction  
283 (ICTRT 2007; UCSRB 2007). Therefore below I focus more on metrics of abundance than of  
284 extinction.

285 In the absence of new management actions, ocean conditions alone drove median  
286 spawner abundance ( $N_{100, 50\%}$ ) down by over 40% in the worst-case ocean scenario (Table  
287 3). Across the range of ocean conditions tested, poorer ocean conditions led to reduced  
288 numbers of median spawners and a slightly increased probability of extinction. Carrying  
289 capacity also declined with worsening ocean conditions. Although we observed declining  
290 spawner abundance with increasingly unfavorable ocean conditions, there were little to no  
291 increase in extinction probabilities. Certainly, the combined effects of poor ocean  
292 conditions with detrimental impacts from freshwater residency, mainstem and estuary  
293 occupancy periods could have severe impacts on this population.

294 As management actions were applied, median spawners generally increased relative  
295 to scenarios where there were no management actions (Table 3). Response metrics  
296 generally mirror patterns in median spawner abundance, so I focus on median spawner  
297 abundance below. In the absence of changes in ocean condition, freshwater habitat actions  
298 improved median spawner abundance by approximately 30%, while improved survival  
299 during dam passage and in the estuary improved these population metrics by  
300 approximately 15%. Combining both types of actions led to nearly additive (~45%)  
301 improvements in these metrics.

302 Neither management actions improving freshwater habitat, nor actions to improve  
303 survival in the mainstem and the estuary, could completely reverse the impacts of the most  
304 extreme declines in ocean condition. Although freshwater habitat actions could improve  
305 median spawner abundance, habitat actions could not reverse the decline in median  
306 spawner abundance (relative to benchmark scenario) caused by the two worst ocean  
307 conditions scenarios (80-100% bad years; Table 3). Similarly, although mainstem FCRPS  
308 improvements combined with reduced avian predation in the estuary led to increased  
309 median spawner abundance, these actions could not compensate for the three worst ocean  
310 condition scenarios (60%-100% bad years).

311 Combining both types of management actions, under the historical ocean conditions,  
312 led median spawner abundance to increase by more than 40% (Table 3). Under the worst  
313 ocean conditions, the combination of freshwater with mainstem and estuary survival  
314 improvements had the least reduction in median spawners (~20%) of any of the other  
315 scenario. When ocean conditions were poor at most 60% of the time, these combined  
316 management actions allowed median spawner abundance to remain above the benchmark  
317 level of median spawner abundance. Under the worst ocean conditions (80-100% poor

318 conditions), these combined management actions led to declines in median spawner  
319 abundance and other population metrics, relative to the benchmark scenario.

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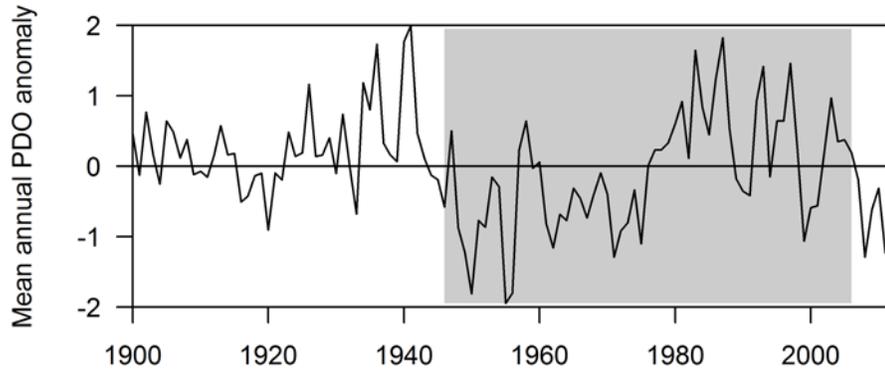
321 DISCUSSION

322 The results above suggest that if climate change increases the frequency of years  
323 with positive PDO, which are generally unfavorable to salmon survival in the ocean, the  
324 management actions considered may be able to buffer the Wenatchee River spring Chinook  
325 population to a limited extent. Drastic increases in the frequency of poor ocean conditions,  
326 i.e. positive PDO for >60% of years, could not be countered by the management actions  
327 tested – thus a key question is to what extent such poor ocean conditions are expected to  
328 occur. Improved downscaled climate-ocean modeling is needed to better forecast likely  
329 future patterns in basin-scale metrics such as PDO, as well as measures of local  
330 productivity.

331 The management actions tested here led to substantial increases in abundance of  
332 this Chinook population. Encouragingly, these actions were modest, involving 10%  
333 improvements in survival rates and 50% reductions in avian predation. Thus there  
334 appears to be some scope for management of Wenatchee River Chinook salmon to adapt to  
335 declining ocean conditions, though we do not evaluate the costs, tradeoffs, or other  
336 additional mitigating actions.

337 In the work above, the positive phase of the PDO is used as a proxy to identify years  
338 with poor ocean conditions for salmon in general. Consistent with this, Crozier et al (2013)  
339 found that PDO was a significant predictor of survival during ocean residency of some  
340 Chinook salmon stocks. However, for Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon, survival was  
341 better predicted by upwelling intensity (Jorgensen et al. 2013). Therefore, for the  
342 Wenatchee population, in addition to several other Columbia River salmon and  
343 anadromous trout populations (Kendall et al. 2013), future downscaled predictions of  
344 upwelling are particularly critical; simulations that increase frequency of years with poor  
345 upwelling may depress the population more than the simulations here that increased  
346 frequency of years with positive PDO.

347 Our modeled ocean conditions were developed from a recent period of observations  
348 which included cold and warm periods. However, it is difficult to predict future ocean  
349 conditions, and it is uncertain whether variability in ocean conditions will be analogous to  
350 or different from the period we used to develop our scenarios. Recent conditions in the  
351 further recent past (to 1900) had relatively more years of transition between warm and  
352 cold conditions (Fig. 3). A more variable ocean combined with more frequent and  
353 persistent warm periods could increase extinction probability. We did not explore changes  
354 in ocean variability, but this is an important aspect that should be addressed in assessing  
355 the effects of future ocean conditions on salmon with life cycle models.



**Figure 3:** PDO anomaly from 1900-2012, with the time period used in this study to construct scenarios of future ocean conditions boxed in gray.

356

**Table 3:** Estimated impacts of management actions on the number of Wenatchee River basin wild spring Chinook salmon spawners using a life cycle model that incorporated scenarios of simulated future ocean conditions. The geometric mean of the number of wild spawners for the five year period 2005-2009 (from the Salmon Population Summary database <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/apex/f?p=261:home:0>) was 576 spawners.

Ocean conditions	Avian predation	FCRPS survival	Freshwater survival	$N_{100,5\%}$	$N_{100,50\%}$	$N_{100,95\%}$	$\bar{N}_{100,5\%}$	$\bar{N}_{100,50\%}$	$\bar{N}_{100,95\%}$	$\text{Pr}(\text{QE})_{100}$	$K$	$R/S_{\text{low}}$
<i>Benchmark</i>												
Historical	current	current	current	210	860	3979	323	843	2790	0.001	754	1.58
<i>Altered ocean condition</i>												
20% bad	current	current	current	220	822	3074	317	817	2177	0.002	879	1.58
40% bad	current	current	current	188	737	2907	276	735	1978	0.005	704	1.84
60% bad	current	current	current	168	632	2662	241	642	1804	0.001	654	1.97
80% bad	current	current	current	136	549	2257	211	542	1512	0.009	633	1.50
100% bad	current	current	current	123	493	1872	196	486	1214	0.008	518	1.45
<i>Freshwater habitat actions</i>												
Historical	current	current	+10%	280	1111	4996	423	1098	3652	0	857	1.57
20% bad	current	current	+10%	291	1049	3920	399	1052	2838	0	947	1.52
40% bad	current	current	+10%	238	901	3455	337	908	2470	0	943	1.92
60% bad	current	current	+10%	221	859	3465	317	860	2411	0	759	2.09
80% bad	current	current	+10%	172	668	2768	252	666	1894	0.001	583	1.92
100% bad	current	current	+10%	158	606	2380	246	607	1504	0.001	574	1.43
<i>Mainstem hydrosystem and estuary actions</i>												
Historical	-50% reduced	+10%	current	251	1004	4633	377	989	3395	0	1110	2.46
20% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	current	267	976	3756	375	985	2627	0	NA	0.92
40% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	current	213	826	3278	312	832	2252	0.001	622	1.88
60% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	current	195	734	2993	276	736	2086	0	638	1.56
80% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	current	163	642	2631	241	639	1835	0.003	646	1.87
100% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	current	139	541	2214	222	547	1355	0.004	415	1.40
<i>All management actions combined</i>												
Historical	-50% reduced	+10%	+10%	303	1226	5477	458	1202	4041	0	1264	1.76
20% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	+10%	351	1254	4668	481	1261	3381	0	980	1.62
40% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	+10%	280	1055	4055	393	1056	2873	0	973	2.92

CCIEA PHASE III REPORT 2013: MANAGEMENT SCENARIO MS2013-03

<b>Ocean conditions</b>	<b>Avian predation</b>	<b>FCRPS survival</b>	<b>Freshwater survival</b>	$N_{100,5\%}$	$N_{100,50\%}$	$N_{100,95\%}$	$\bar{N}_{100,5\%}$	$\bar{N}_{100,50\%}$	$\bar{N}_{100,95\%}$	$\text{Pr}(\text{QE})_{100}$	$K$	$R/S_{\text{low}}$
60% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	+10%	257	970	3916	357	979	2759	0	896	2.07
80% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	+10%	206	811	3338	307	806	2287	0	748	2.05
100% bad	-50% reduced	+10%	+10%	183	700	2690	282	698	1738	0.001	443	1.56

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