

Oregon Anglers strongly endorses the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's development of the "Native Fish Conservation Policy and Guidelines" (December 14, 2001 draft):

"Based on state statute, native fish are wild and hatchery fish indigenous to Oregon and not introduced" (ORS 496.171, ORS 541.351).

"Outcome. Successful implementation of this approach will help:

1. Restore or maintain healthy species management units.
2. Optimize hatchery programs to enhance fisheries, mitigate for lost or reduced natural production, and conserve species at risk of extinction, consistent with acceptable risks to native fish conservation.
3. Facilitate de-listing under state and federal endangered species laws.
4. Increase local involvement in fish conservation programs.
5. Strengthen local and state influence on federal management of fish, water and land.
6. Increase management flexibility and opportunities for resource use resulting from healthy native fish communities.
7. Provide a scientific basis for conservation.
8. Establish a clear role for hatchery fish.

Note: NOAA Fisheries has finally agreed that the Coastal Coho have attained sufficient numbers that they can be de-listed. This is the first de-listing of any salmonoids on the West Coast. But it shows that with some help we can bring back runs to reasonable levels.

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