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About Eulachon
Eulachon (pronounced you la kon in the United States), also known as candlefish, small fish, savior fish, salvation fish, fathom fish, Columbia River smelt, hoolakan, hooligan, hoolikan, olachan, ollachan, oolachan, oolichan, oulachan, oulachon, oulacon, ulchen, ulichan, uthecan, yshuh, ooligan, olachen, olachon, quat ra, páagwáls, are found in the North East Pacific Ocean.

September 2014

Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of the Eulachon Newsletter!

Introduction

The intent of the Eulachon Newsletter is to provide our partners regular updates on recovery planning, on-going research, regulatory actions, and how you can assist NOAA in implementing recovery actions to promote the conservation of eulachon.

So, Why a Recovery Plan?

Section 4(f) of the ESA requires the preparation and implementation of recovery plans for all listed species. Under Section 4(f)(1)(B), to the maximum extent practicable, each plan must contain at a minimum:

- 1) A description of such site-specific management actions as may be necessary to achieve the plan's goal for the conservation and survival of the species;
- 2) Objective, measurable criteria that, when met, would result in a determination that the species be removed from the list;
- 3) Estimates of the time required and the cost to carry out those measures needed to achieve the plan's goal and achieve intermediate steps toward that goal.

Upcoming Events

NOAA is planning on holding the first Stakeholder Group meeting in the winter of 2014/2015. The meeting will be held in Portland, OR. Details to follow.

Updates from the Recovery Team

In July 2013, NOAA formed a Recovery Team to assist in the development of biological viability criteria, gain a better understanding of eulachon in the marine environment, and to providing input on specific recovery actions for the recovery plan.

The Recovery Team has been exploring several analytic approaches to developing biological viability criteria over the past year. The Recovery Team is scheduled to have draft biological viability criteria by the end of 2014.

Updates on Research Activities

Since being listed as a threatened species in 2010, NOAA, through the ESA Species Recovery Grants for States and Tribes, has funded more than \$1,500,000 in research.

A couple of research highlights:

The first is research by the Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife. This research involves estimating eulachon spawner abundance via spawning stock biomass estimations, which have provided the first scientific estimates of abundance for the Columbia River subpopulation. Over the past 4 years, the median estimated abundance of eulachon in the Columbia River was 37,000,000 spawners (2011), 36,000,000 spawners (2012), 110,000,000 spawners in 2012, and 185,000,000 spawners in 2014.

In 2014, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, with funding from NOAA, tested the use of LED lights on trawl gear for the pink shrimp fishery to test if illuminating the trawl nets would reduce by-catch of eulachon. Preliminary results suggests that the by-catch of eulachon (by weight) was reduced by as much as 90 percent (total of 42 tows), without affecting (statistically) the catch of pink shrimp.

That's all for now. Please contact me anytime with questions regarding eulachon conservation.

Sincerely,
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Eulachon Newsletter

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