

**This document is copyrighted by the American Fisheries Society.
The entire document is available on KRIS compact discs, but not on the Internet.**

Pacific Salmon at the Crossroads: Stocks at Risk from California, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington

Willa Nehlsen, Jack E. Williams, and James A. Lichatowich

***Fisheries*, Vol. 16, No. 2. March - April 1991**

© Copyright by the American Fisheries Society, 1991

ABSTRACT

The American Fisheries Society herein provides a list of depleted Pacific salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat stocks from California, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington, to accompany the list of rare inland fishes reported by Williams et al. (1989). The list includes 214 native naturally-spawning stocks: 101 at high risk of extinction, 58 at moderate risk of extinction, 54 of special concern, and one classified as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and as endangered by the state of California. The decline in native salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat populations has resulted from habitat loss and damage, and inadequate passage and flows caused by hydropower, agriculture, logging, and other developments; overfishing, primarily of weaker stocks in mixed-stock fisheries; and negative interactions with other fishes, including nonnative hatchery salmon and steelhead. While some attempts at remedying these threats have been made, they have not been enough to prevent the broad decline of stocks along the West Coast. A new paradigm that advances habitat restoration and ecosystem function rather than hatchery production is needed for many of these stocks to survive and prosper into the next century.