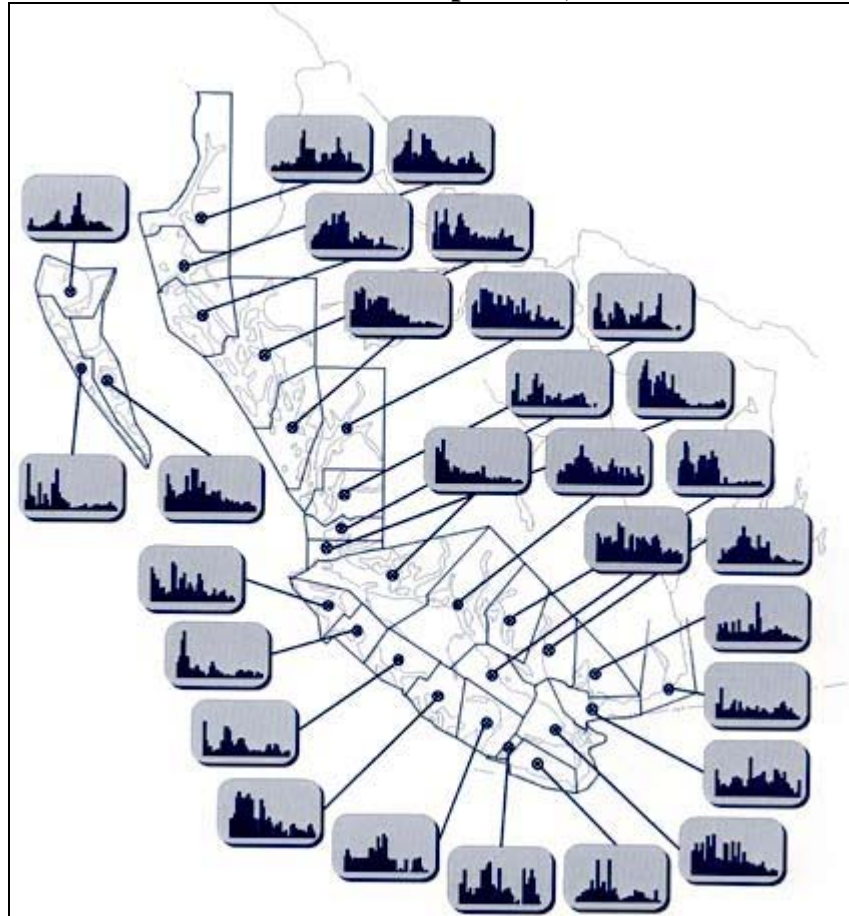


Coho Salmon in British Columbia

Trends in BC Coho Salmon Escapements, 1950-97



Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council (DFO 1999?)

Notes: Most of the trend information is from DFO fishery officer inspections, summarized in the Salmon Escapement Data System (SEDS). Cautions to the reader: (1) SEDS information is incomplete; many smaller systems are not inspected regularly; (2) at least some apparent declines are due partly to reduced monitoring effort, especially after the mid 1980s; (3) some sudden increases are due to changes in monitoring methods, such as installation of fences and use of mark-recapture procedures on rivers where visual counting was impractical; (4) the trend pattern for each area is scaled to the maximum escapement recorded for that area; some areas have much higher total runs than others.

The numbers of coho spawners for various stocks are shown by location of the inset graphs for the period 1950 (to the left) to 1997. The graphs have been scaled to a standard size so do not reflect relative stock sizes.

Summary of population size and trend

All stocks of Coho in British Columbia have shown a decline in spawner abundance in recent years (PFRCC 1999, see links below). A major concern in the long-term decline of stocks is the loss and degradation of freshwater habitat due to forestry, agriculture and urbanization. (Fisheries and Oceans Canada 2002, see links below). Forestry-related

impacts include reduced water retention, loss of stream habitat complexity, siltation and increased water temperatures.

For more information on Coho Salmon in British Columbia:

- B.C. Species and Ecosystems Explorer:
<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/atrisk/toolintro.html>
- Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council:
http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/sci/psarc/SSRs/diadromous_ssrs_e.htm

Criteria for selection of Coho Salmon for indicator:

- A species of high forest-dependency;
- A species of economic and social/cultural significance;
- A species where timber management is a known potentially major threat; *and*
- Inclusion of at least one species from each taxonomic group.