

Stronghold Classification Framework

What is a Stronghold? The NASSP Charter defines a Stronghold as follows.

Salmon Stronghold: *Status conferred to a defined geographical unit which meets biological criteria for abundance, productivity, diversity (life history and run timing), habitat quality, or other biological attributes important to sustaining viable populations of wild Pacific salmon throughout their range. The term stronghold refers to a watershed, multiple watersheds, or other defined spatial units where populations are strong, diverse, and the habitat has a high intrinsic potential to support a particular species, or suite of species.*

Conceptual Framework for Stronghold Identification

Stronghold Categories	Criteria
<p>Core Strongholds</p> <p>May be defined for single or multiple salmon species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest values for abundance, viability and diversity • Consists of single or multiple basins/watersheds • Aggregation of watersheds that most efficiently meet conservation goals for spatial, ecological, or biological area of interest • Make the highest proportional contribution toward meeting established conservation targets for a specified spatial scale (e.g., North Pacific Rim, Ecoregion, ESU, etc.)
<p>Contributing Strongholds</p> <p>May be defined for single or multiple salmon species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for classification as a contributing stronghold will be established for each species • Addresses a “network” criterion identified in Article 2.3 of the NASSP Charter (e.g., reduces risk of genetic isolation; reduces risk of adverse effects of stochastic events; supports persistence of rare species/life histories)

Approved by Steering Committee (6-23-09)