

# SKAGIT - LOWER SAUK CHINOOK

## STOCK STATUS

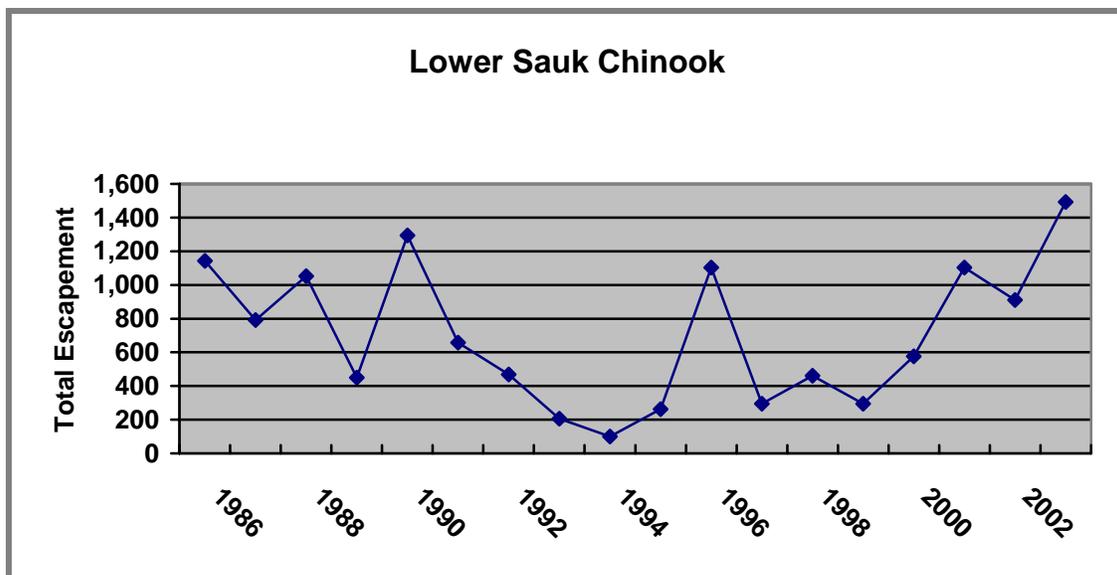
1992 STATUS  
Depressed

2002 STATUS  
Depressed

## STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Good

Year	Total Escapement	Year	Total Escapement
1986	1,143	1995	263
1987	792	1996	1,103
1988	1,052	1997	295
1989	449	1998	460
1990	1,294	1999	295
1991	658	2000	576
1992	469	2001	1,103
1993	205	2002	910
1994	100	2003	1,493



Data are total escapement estimates based on redd counts from the mouth of the Sauk River upstream to the town of Darrington (RM 0.0 to 21.1).

Stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 due primarily to low productivity. Stock productivity is less than expected even assuming low marine survival. A mean of 589 spawners for brood years 1988 through 1997 should produce a mean of 2,845 recruits. However, the mean number of recruits is only 799. In addition, spawner abundance is low. The average escapement is less than the recovery goal of 1,400 spawners established for the stock by EDT analysis (Koenings et al. 2002). The status of this stock is subject to change as values for recruits, provided by NOAA Fisheries, change during on-going analyses.

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## STOCK DEFINITION

Lower Sauk Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution, spawning timing and genetic composition.

**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Spawning takes place in the Sauk River from the mouth upstream to the Darrington Bridge (RM 21.2).

**SPAWNING TIMING:** Spawning generally occurs from late August to late October.

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** Allozyme analysis has shown that Lower Sauk Chinook are genetically distinct from all other Washington Chinook stocks examined (Marshall et al. 1995).

## STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **wild** production.