

SKAGIT - UPPER SAUK CHINOOK

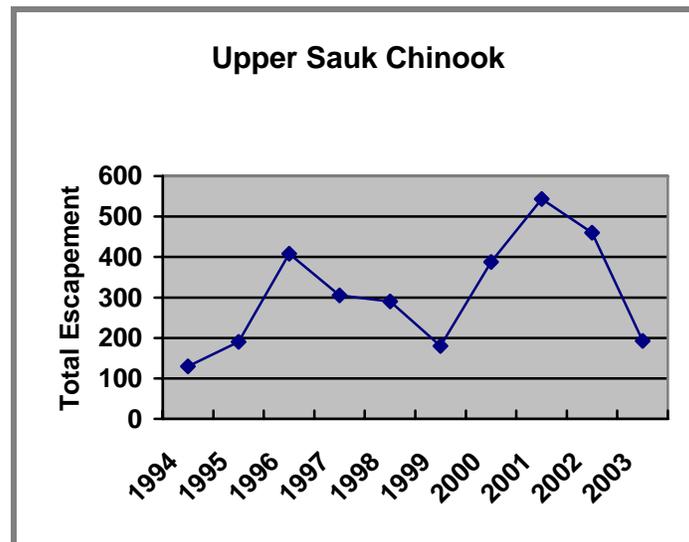
STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS Healthy	2002 STATUS Depressed
-------------------------------	---------------------------------

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Excellent

Year	Total Escapement
1994	130
1995	190
1996	408
1997	305
1998	290
1999	180
2000	388
2001	543
2002	460
2003	193



Data are total escapement estimates based on redd counts in the mainstem Skagit River from the town of Darrington up to the forks (RM 21.2 to 39.7), in the North Fork Sauk from the mouth upstream to the falls and in the South Fork Sauk from the mouth to about RM 2.5. A new escapement methodology was developed beginning in 1994. Expanded cumulative redd counts are thought to represent the total spawner population better than peak live plus dead counts which were used prior to 1994 (Pete Castle, WDFW, personal communication). The new estimates are not comparable to the estimates in the 1992 SASSI.

Stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002. Mean spawner abundance for brood years 1994 through 1997 is 258. There is no Comprehensive Chinook low abundance threshold for this

SKAGIT - UPPER SAUK CHINOOK

stock. The escapement boundary between depressed and critical status used for this stock is 210, which represents 5% of the historic Chinook capacity in the upper Sauk estimated by EDT as 4,200. The average number of spawners slightly exceeds this value. Stock productivity is low, even assuming low marine survival but is above the level of stock replacement. The status of this stock is subject to change as values for recruits, provided by NOAA Fisheries, change during on-going analyses.

STOCK DEFINITION

Upper 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 primarily from Darrington up to the forks and in the lower reaches of the North and South forks of the Sauk.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from mid-August to mid-October.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Allozyme analysis has shown that Upper Sauk Chinook are not genetically distinct from Upper Skagit Mainstem/Tribs. Upper Sauk Chinook are, however, different from all other Washington Chinook stocks examined (Marshall et al. 1995).

STOCK ORIGIN

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