

SKAGIT - UPPER CASCADE CHINOOK

STOCK STATUS

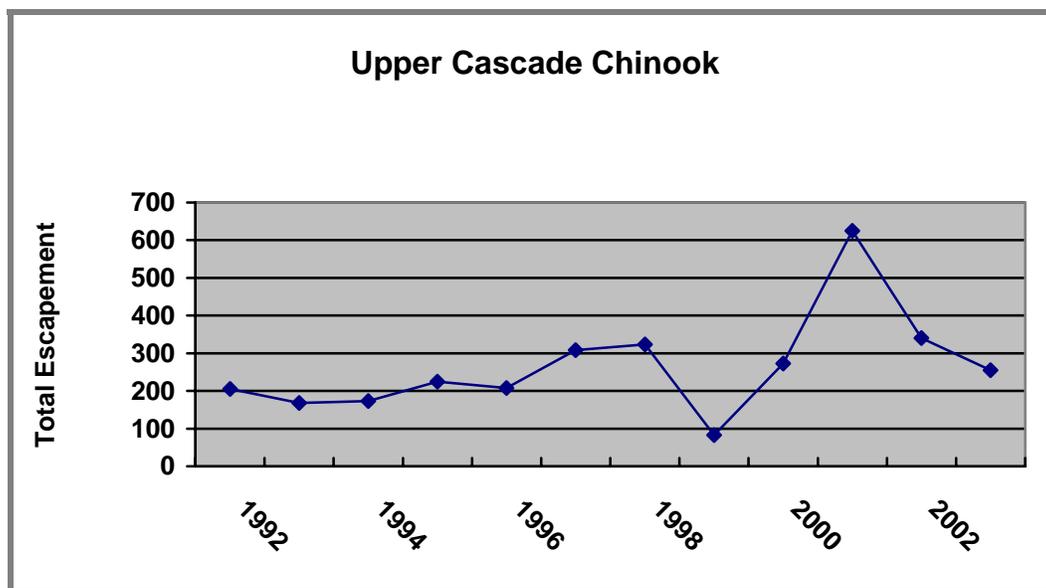
1992 STATUS
Unknown

2002 STATUS
Depressed

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Excellent

Year	Total Escapement	Year	Total Escapement
1992	205	1998	323
1993	168	1999	83
1994	173	2000	273
1995	225	2001	625
1996	208	2002	340
1997	308	2003	278



Data are total escapement estimates based on redd counts in the mainstem Cascade River above RM 7.8; in the lower reaches of the North and South forks of the Cascade; and in Marble, Found, Kindy, and Sonny Boy creeks. A new escapement methodology was applied beginning in 1992. Expanded cumulative redd counts are thought to represent the total spawner population better than peak live plus dead counts which were used prior to 1992 (Pete Castle, WDFW, personal communication). New estimates are not comparable to the estimates in the 1992 SASSI.

Stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 due primarily to low stock productivity. A mean spawner number of 215 for brood years 1992 through 1997 should produce a mean of 796 recruits. However, the observed mean is 731. In addition, the mean number of spawners is less than the recovery goal of 290 spawners established for the stock by EDT analysis (Koenings et

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al. 2002). 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 Cascade Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution and spawning timing.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place in the Cascade River from RM 7.8 to at least RM 19.2, in the North Fork Cascade River (RM 0.0 to 0.2) and in Marble, Found, and Kindy creeks.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from the beginning of August to late September.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Allozyme analysis of Upper Cascade Chinook has shown them to be genetically distinct from all other Washington Chinook stocks examined (Marshall et al. 1995). In this analysis Upper Cascade Chinook were more similar to other wild Skagit-basin Chinook stocks than they were to other early-timed Puget Sound Chinook stocks such as those in the Nooksack basin and the White River (Puyallup). They were also significantly different from the spring Chinook stock maintained at the WDFW Marblemount Hatchery in the Cascade River basin.

STOCK ORIGIN

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