

STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA – ELWHA CHINOOK

In the 1992 this stock was called the Elwha/Morse Creek summer/fall Chinook stock. In this revision, Morse Creek has been dropped from the stock name because we believe that Chinook spawning in Morse Creek are strays from the Elwha River. Run-timing designations (e.g. “summer/fall”) have been dropped from most Puget Sound Chinook stock names because they have been applied inconsistently.

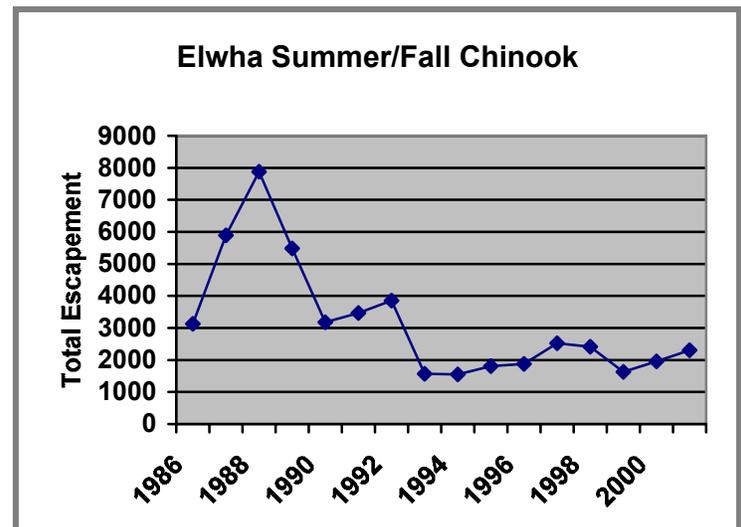
STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS Healthy	2002 STATUS Depressed
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STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Good

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	3,127
1987	5,893
1988	7,873
1989	5,487
1990	3,180
1991	3,469
1992	3,859
1993	1,569
1994	1,546
1995	1,812
1996	1,875
1997	2,527
1998	2,409
1999	1,629
2000	1,959
2001	2,303
2002	863
2003	1,045



Data are total escapement estimates based on redd counts from RM 3.2 to 4.4. Status is now rated **Depressed** due to a **long-term negative trend** and **chronically low** escapements since 1992. Spawning abundance has fallen to levels below the escapement goal of 2,900 adults, and it is evident that the hatchery program is essential for maintenance of the stock at its current low level.

STOCK DEFINITION

Elwha Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution. Stock identification is supported by genetic analysis.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Spawning is limited to the lower 4.9 miles of river below the Elwha Dam.

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

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

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **composite** production. The WDFW Elwha Hatchery collects broodstock from the Elwha River annually. The wild and hatchery components are completely intermingled.