

LOWER COLUMBIA – GRAYS FALL CHINOOK

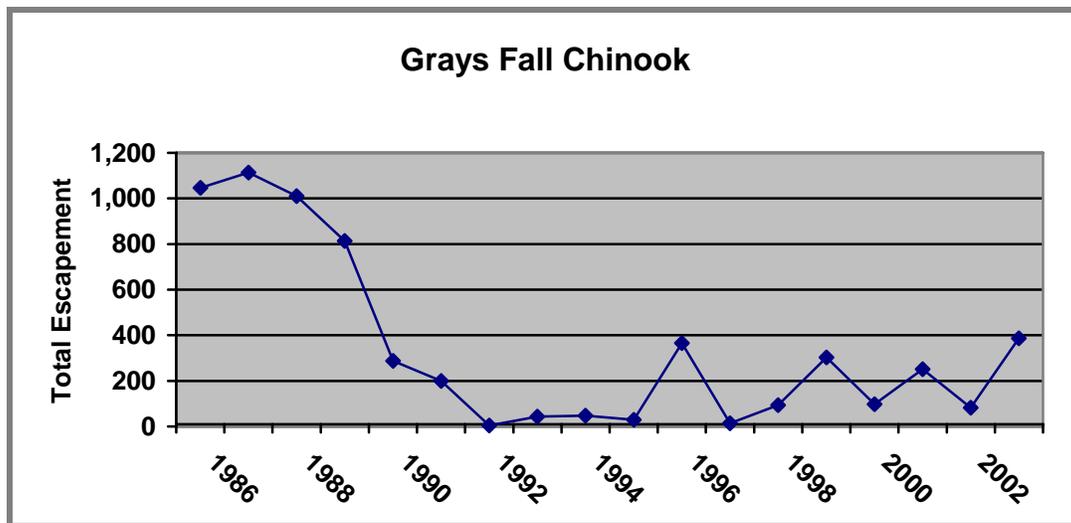
STOCK STATUS

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

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Good

| YEAR | TOTAL ESCAPEMENT | YEAR | TOTAL ESCAPEMENT |
|------|------------------|------|------------------|
| 1986 | 1,047 | 1995 | 29 |
| 1987 | 1,113 | 1996 | 365 |
| 1988 | 1,010 | 1997 | 14 |
| 1989 | 813 | 1998 | 93 |
| 1990 | 287 | 1999 | 303 |
| 1991 | 200 | 2000 | 97 |
| 1992 | 4 | 2001 | 251 |
| 1993 | 43 | 2002 | 82 |
| 1994 | 47 | 2003 | 387 |



Data are total escapement estimates expanded from annual peak live plus dead spawner counts from the Grays River Hatchery (RM 1.4 on the West Fork Grays River) downstream to the Covered Bridge on the mainstem Grays (RM 10.5).

Stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 because of **chronically low** escapements. Generally, lower Columbia tule fall Chinook stocks, including Grays fall Chinook, experienced poor survival in the 1990s.

STOCK DEFINITION

Grays fall Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

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SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning occurs from the Covered Bridge on the mainstem upstream to the Grays River Hatchery on the West Fork Grays River.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from late September to mid-November.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: No genetic analysis has been done on Grays River fall Chinook.

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **wild** production. A native population of fall Chinook existed in the Grays River prior to the construction of Grays River Hatchery in 1960. Until recently, a significant portion of the fall Chinook spawners in the Grays River were hatchery strays. The fall Chinook program at the Grays River Hatchery ended in 1998. The present population is a probably mix of native and hatchery-origin fish with life history characteristics common to those of other lower Columbia River tule fall Chinook stocks.