

# LOWER COLUMBIA – MILL CREEK FALL CHINOOK

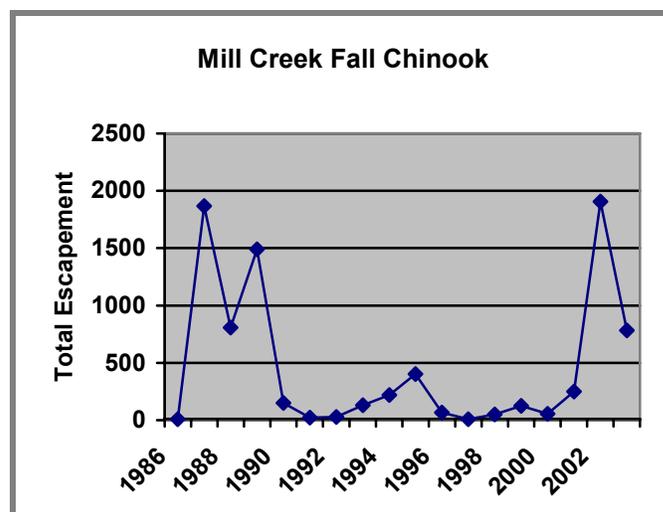
## STOCK STATUS

<b>1992 STATUS</b> Healthy	<b>2002 STATUS</b> Depressed
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## STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: *Good*

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	7
1987	1,867
1988	808
1989	1,490
1990	150
1991	22
1992	27
1993	130
1994	218
1995	402
1996	67
1997	8
1998	50
1999	124
2000	56
2001	249
2002	1,907
2003	783



Data are total escapement estimates based on annual peak fish counts from the Mill Creek road bridge downstream to the mouth, a distance of two miles.

Stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 because of **chronically low** escapements. Generally, tule fall Chinook stocks, such as Mill Creek fall Chinook, experienced poor survival in the 1990s. However, natural spawning abundance is probably more a reflection of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Abernathy Creek Salmon Culture Technology Center stray rates rather than of natural production.

## STOCK DEFINITION

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

**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Most spawning takes place from the mouth of Mill Creek upstream to Mill Creek Bridge at RM 2.

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

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**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** No genetic analysis has been done on Mill Creek fall Chinook.

## **STOCK ORIGIN**

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. Fall Chinook that presently spawn in Mill Creek are a mixture of hatchery fish, and may include Abernathy Creek Salmon Culture Technology Center strays (Marshall 1995). Based on life history and timing, Mill Creek Chinook resemble mid-Columbia tule fall Chinook stocks such as White Salmon River and Wind tule fall Chinook more closely than neighboring lower Columbia tule fall stocks (Marshall 1995).