

LOWER COLUMBIA – GERMANY CREEK FALL CHINOOK

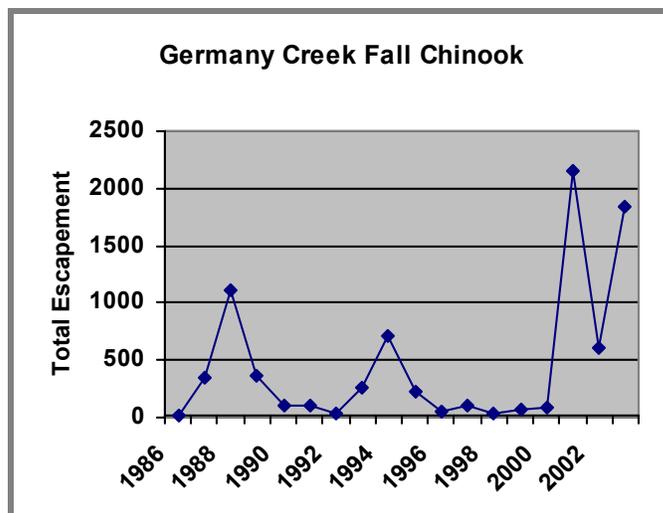
STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS Healthy	2002 STATUS Depressed
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STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: *Good*

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	15
1987	351
1988	1,113
1989	357
1990	106
1991	109
1992	33
1993	266
1994	706
1995	230
1996	59
1997	103
1998	31
1999	75
2000	94
2001	2,158
2002	603
2003	1,837



Data are total escapement estimates based on annual peak live plus dead spawner counts from RM 3.5 downstream to the mouth of Germany Creek.

Stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 because of **chronically low** escapements. Natural spawning abundance is more a reflection of the size of returns to nearby Abernathy Creek Salmon Culture Technology Center than of natural production. Germany Creek is not a typical Chinook watershed, and we doubt that Chinook populations are sustainable due to the lack of suitable spawning habitat.

STOCK DEFINITION

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

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place from the creek mouth upstream to RM 3.5.

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

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

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STOCK ORIGIN

This is probably a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. Germany Creek may not have supported a native fall Chinook stock (Marshall et al. 1995). Fall Chinook that presently spawn in Germany Creek are probably a mixture of hatchery-origin fish. Based on life history and timing, Germany 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).