

# LOWER COLUMBIA – GREEN RIVER (TOUTLE) FALL CHINOOK

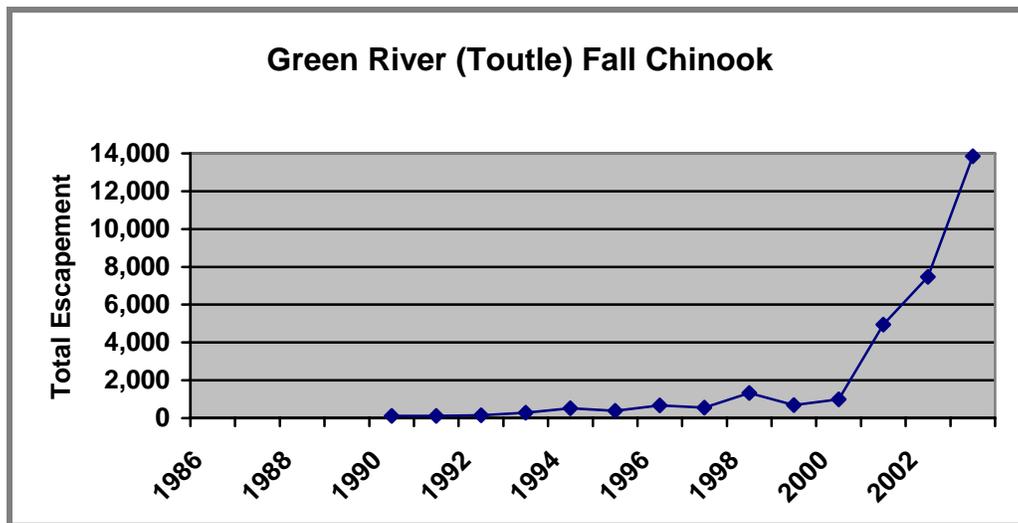
## STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS Depressed	2002 STATUS Healthy
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## STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Good

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT	YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	No Data	1995	381
1987	No Data	1996	674
1988	No Data	1997	561
1989	No Data	1998	1,332
1990	123	1999	693
1991	126	2000	998
1992	153	2001	4,951
1993	285	2002	7,477
1994	522	2003	13,846



Data are total escapement estimates expanded from annual peak live plus dead spawner counts from the North Toutle Hatchery weir (on the Green River) (RM 0.4) to the mouth of the Green River.

Stock status is rated **Healthy** in 2002 based on adult abundance. Generally, tule fall Chinook stocks, such as Green River fall Chinook, experienced poor survival in the 1990s. With the stabilization of the watershed since the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, Chinook are re-establishing themselves in the watershed. During the post-eruption years, no surveys were conducted. It is likely that the majority of naturally-spawning fish are of hatchery origin.

## STOCK DEFINITION

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

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**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Prior to the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, natural spawning occurred throughout the watershed, especially in the lower five miles of the Toutle as well as in the North Fork Toutle and Green rivers. Most spawning now occurs from the mouth of the Green River up to North Toutle Hatchery weir (on the Green River).

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

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** Genetic analysis has not been done on Green River fall Chinook.

## STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production and is similar in life history to other tule fall Chinook stocks in the lower Columbia. Fall Chinook were historically native to the Toutle River and its tributaries. This watershed has received plants of non-native fall Chinook from Wind River, Spring Creek, Big Creek (Oregon), Kalama and Washougal rivers. Since the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, hatchery fish have come from Grays River, Big Creek, Kalama and Washougal hatcheries. Currently, 2.5 million fall Chinook sub-yearlings are released annually into the Green River.