

# SLAKE RIVER – TUCANNON SPRING CHINOOK

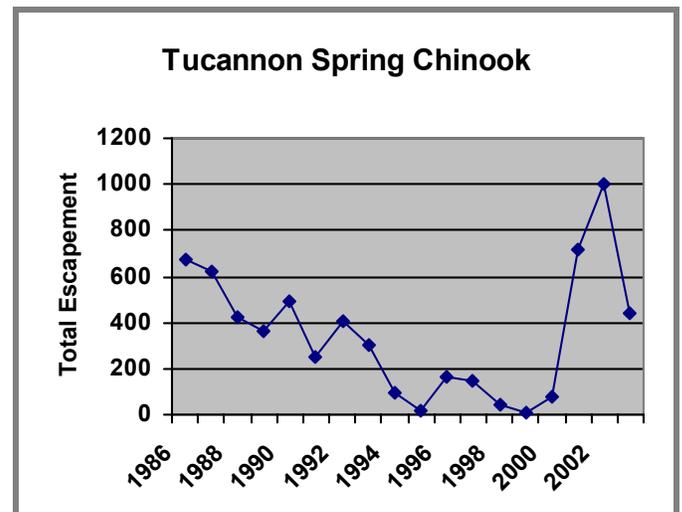
## STOCK STATUS

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

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: *Good*

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	686
1987	628
1988	440
1989	363
1990	497
1991	259
1992	414
1993	318
1994	98
1995	21
1996	163
1997	161
1998	85
1999	3
2000	81
2001	716
2002	1,005
2003	444



Data are estimates of spawners on the mainstem Tucannon from the mouth of Sheep Creek (RM 52) downstream to King Grade (RM 21) and counts of adult Chinook at the Tucannon Hatchery trap.

As with other upper Columbia spring Chinook stocks, spawner abundance increased considerably in 2001. However, this level of escapement is not likely to be maintained. Escapements have been well below the NOAA Fisheries interim recovery goal of 1,000 spawners, and the stock has not come close to meeting the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan hatchery mitigation goals of 1,152 adult hatchery returns per year to the Snake River (mostly to the Tucannon) and 1,248 naturally produced wild spawners (Glen Mendel, WDFW, personal communication). Stock status remains **Depressed** in 2002 because of a **long-term negative trend** in escapement and **chronically low** escapements.

## STOCK DEFINITION

Tucannon spring Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution and genetic composition.

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**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Most spawning takes place in the mainstem Tucannon River from the King Grade (RM 21) upstream to the mouth of Sheep Creek in the Wenaha Tucannon Wilderness (RM 52). Spawning has not been observed in Tucannon tributaries.

**SPAWNING TIMING:** Spawning generally occurs from late August to late September. Spring Chinook enter the Tucannon from late April or early May into late June or early July.

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** Allozyme analysis has shown that Tucannon spring Chinook are genetically distinct from other Columbia basin Chinook stocks examined (Marshall et al. 1995).

## **STOCK ORIGIN**

This is a **native** stock with **composite** production. There is a hatchery supplementation program for this stock at the Tucannon Hatchery as part of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan to mitigate for the effects of Snake River dam construction. The program has used only wild broodstock from the Tucannon River. Some juveniles are acclimated in the Curl Lake Acclimation Pond and released into the upper Tucannon.

Because the Tucannon is fairly remote from other hatcheries, straying by other hatchery stocks has been low, but the number of strays from the Umatilla (Oregon) program has become a serious concern during the last three to four years.