

# MID-COLUMBIA – UPPER YAKIMA SPRING CHINOOK

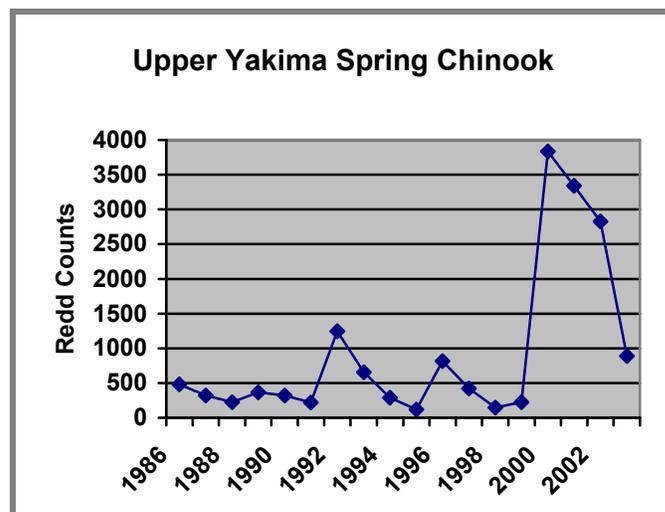
## STOCK STATUS

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

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Excellent

YEAR	REDD COUNTS
1986	479
1987	323
1988	223
1989	365
1990	321
1991	220
1992	1,246
1993	656
1994	290
1995	117
1996	814
1997	420
1998	148
1999	224
2000	3,836
2001	3,339
2002	2,826
2003	890



Data are redd counts from foot and float surveys in the mainstem Yakima from Selah upstream to Keechelus Dam, in the Cle Elum River from the mouth upstream to Cle Elum Dam, in the Teanaway River, and in Manastash Creek. These surveys encompass all known spring Chinook spawning habitat in the upper Yakima basin and are conducted throughout the spawning period. Starting in 2001, counts include hatchery fish intended to supplement the naturally spawning fish.

Although redd counts increased dramatically in 2000 and 2001, we are not certain that this level of escapement will be maintained. Therefore stock status remains **Depressed** in 2002 because of **chronically low** redd counts.

## STOCK DEFINITION

Upper Yakima spring Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution, river entry timing (mid-April to early July) and spawning timing, age composition (four-year old spawners predominate) and genetic composition.

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**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Most spawning now takes place in the mainstem Yakima River from just above the city of Ellensburg (RM 152.2) upstream to the Easton Dam (RM 202.5), and in the Cle Elum River below the Cle Elum Dam.

**SPAWNING TIMING:** Spawning generally occurs in the last three weeks of September.

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** Allozyme analysis has shown that Upper Yakima spring Chinook are genetically distinct from other Columbia basin Chinook stocks examined (WDF and WDW 1993).

## STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **composite** production. There have been few releases of non-native hatchery fish. In 1997 the Yakama Indian Nation and WDFW began an experimental supplementation program at the Yakama Cle Elum Hatchery to evaluate the success and biological effects of Chinook supplementation programs. The program has also provided additional fish for both tribal and non-tribal harvest.