

UPPER COLUMBIA – LAKE CHELAN FALL CHINOOK

STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS	2002 STATUS
Healthy	Unknown

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

There are no adequate abundance trend data for Lake Chelan fall chinook. Spawning ground surveys are not done on a routine basis and are usually incidental to surveys for other salmon species. Stock status is **Unknown** in 2002.

STOCK DEFINITION

Lake Chelan fall chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

SPAWNING TIMING: Most spawning takes place in the Stehekin River and its tributary, Company Creek.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from late August through September.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Preliminary genetic analysis of unmarked, and presumed natural-origin, chinook sampled from the Lake Chelan sport catch in 1997 showed no clear relationship to any single potential stock of origin. Results suggested contributions from multiple stocks (Anne Marshall, WDFW, personal communication). Natural spawners in the Stehekin River have not been sampled.

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **non-native** stock with **wild** production. This stock was introduced only to provide sport-fishing opportunities to Lake Chelan. A naturally sustaining population has developed from a mixture of hatchery stocks introduced from 1974 through 1978. A cooperative net-pen program was established in 1989-1990 to supplement natural production. The net pen program has since been halted, but annual plantings have continued up through recent years. Various stocks have been used, including spring and fall stocks, from Puget Sound rivers (Green, Snohomish) as well as Columbia River stocks. The most recent plants are Wells Hatchery fall chinook.