

UPPER COLUMBIA – OKANOGAN SUMMER CHINOOK

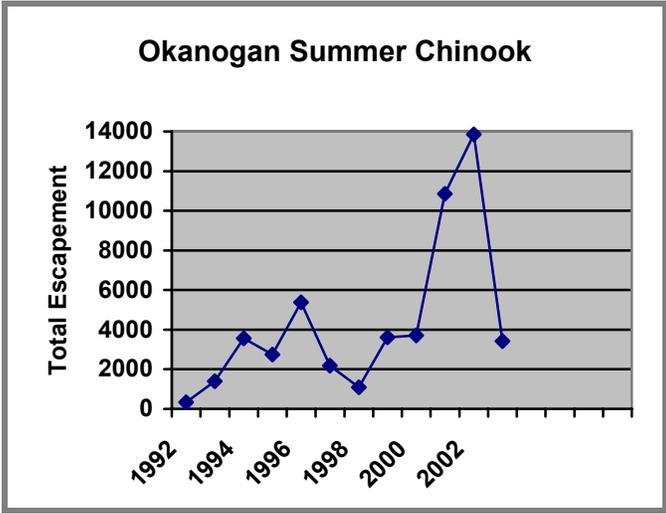
STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS Depressed	2002 STATUS Healthy
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STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Very Good

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1992	341
1993	1,395
1994	3,572
1995	2,738
1996	5,374
1997	2,189
1998	1,092
1999	3,617
2000	3,701
2001	10,857
2002	13,857
2003	3,420



Data are total escapement estimates based on redd counts in the mainstem Okanogan and Similkameen (Okanogan tributary) rivers. Prior to 1996, data were available for the mainstem Okanogan only.

Total spawner abundance for this stock continues to be strong. Stock status is rated **Healthy** in 2002.

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STOCK DEFINITION

Okanogan summer Chinook were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution, river entry timing (July to September depending on water temperature), spawning timing and genetic composition.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place in the mainstem Okanogan from Loup Loup Creek upstream to Zosel Dam, although summer Chinook carcasses have been recovered in Canada above Lake Osoyoos and in the Similkameen River upstream to Enloe Dam.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning occurs from early October to mid-November and peaks in mid-October.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Summer Chinook from the Similkameen River sampled from 1991 to 1993 were significantly different from other upper Columbia summer Chinook stocks, although they were most similar to Wenatchee summer Chinook (Anne Marshall, WDFW, personal communication).

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. The WDFW Eastbank Hatchery has maintained a mixed Methow/Okanogan summer Chinook stock utilizing broodstock collected at Wells Dam on the mainstem Columbia River since 1989. Yearling summer Chinook smolts from this program are acclimated in the Okanogan basin at the Similkameen Acclimation Pond and released into the Similkameen River.