

# TRANSBOUNDARY INDEPENDENTS - SUMAS/CHILLIWACK FALL CHUM

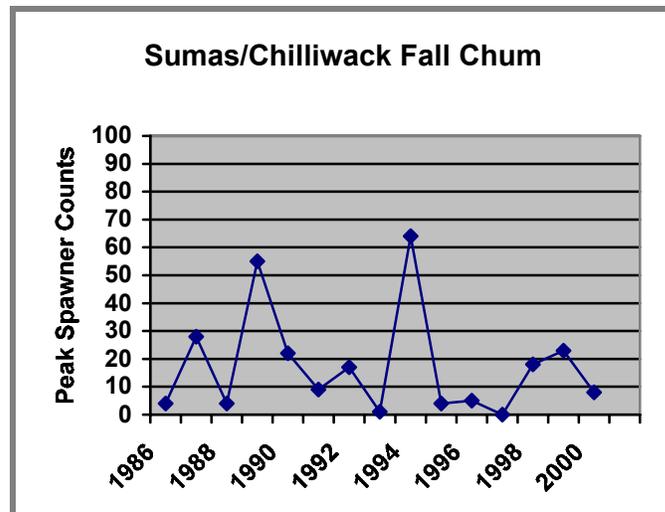
## STOCK STATUS

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

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Poor

YEAR	PEAK SPAWNER COUNTS
1986	4
1987	28
1988	4
1989	55
1990	22
1991	9
1992	17
1993	1
1994	64
1995	4
1996	5
1997	0
1998	18
1999	23
2000	8



Data are peak counts of spawners in Saar Creek (RM 7.3 to 8.5).

Stock status is **Unknown** in 2002 due to a lack of knowledge regarding total numbers of chum salmon spawning in the Sumas River. Based on annual escapements, the Chilliwack chum component is apparently healthy. However, the proportion of Sumas chum represented by spawners in Washington waters is not known.

## STOCK DEFINITION

Sumas/Chilliwack fall chum were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** The Sumas River flows north from its headwaters in Washington into British Columbia and enters the Fraser River via the Vedder-Chilliwack system. This stock spawns throughout the Vedder-Chilliwack drainage, with the majority of spawning activity occurring in Canadian waters. Most spawning in U.S. waters takes place in Saar Creek, a tributary to the Sumas River. Occasionally, chum have been seen in other Sumas tributaries including Breckenridge and North Fork Johnson creeks.

**SPAWNING TIMING:** Spawning generally occurs from late October through early January.

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** Although no genetic analysis has been done on chum from the Sumas, chum from the Chilliwack have been analyzed and shown to be distinct from all Washington chum and other Fraser chum stocks examined (Phelps et al. 1995).

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### STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **wild** production.