

HOOD CANAL – LOWER SKOKOMISH FALL CHUM

STOCK STATUS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1992 STATUS Unknown | 2002 STATUS Unknown |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

There are no abundance trend data for Lower Skokomish fall chum, so their status remains **Unknown** in 2002. Many chum salmon, probably including large numbers of strays from George Adams and McKernan hatcheries, spawn in the lower Skokomish and its tributaries. Although quantitative data are lacking, the stock is probably healthy.

STOCK DEFINITION

Lower Skokomish fall chum were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution and early spawning timing compared with the timing for Upper Skokomish late fall chum.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place in Purdy and Weaver creeks and in the lower mainstem Skokomish River.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from November through December.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: No genetic analysis has been conducted on Lower Skokomish fall chum.

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. George Adams Hatchery (located on Purdy Creek, a lower Skokomish River tributary) and McKernan Hatchery (located on Weaver Creek, another lower Skokomish tributary) exchange fall chum eggs and receive eggs from Hoodspout Hatchery when their egg take goals are not met. Repeated releases of Hoodspout Hatchery fall chum into the lower Skokomish River may have significantly altered the genetic composition of the Lower Skokomish fall chum stock.