

HOOD CANAL – WEST HOOD CANAL FALL CHUM

STOCK STATUS

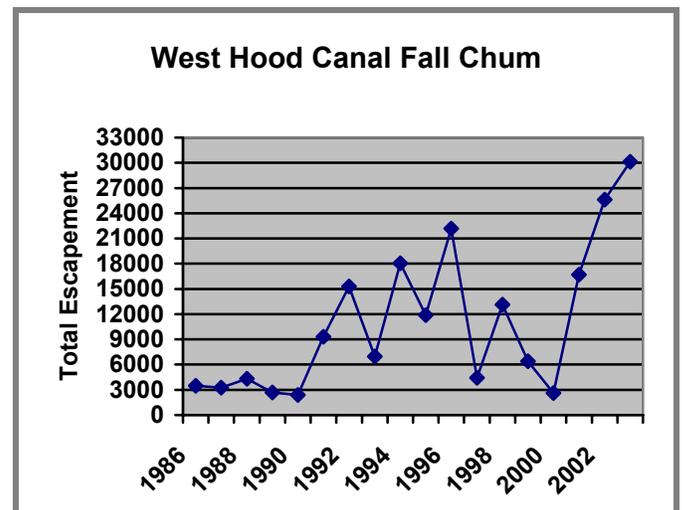
1992 STATUS	2002 STATUS
Healthy	Healthy

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS:

Good

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	3,480
1987	3,267
1988	4,308
1989	2,701
1990	2,380
1991	9,326
1992	15,282
1993	6,967
1994	18,034
1995	11,887
1996	22,170
1997	4,438
1998	13,131
1999	6,414
2000	2,623
2001	16,689
2002	25,619
2003	30,131



Data are total escapement estimates based on live spawner counts in index areas on Hill, Clark, Miller, Sund, Little Lilliwaup, Lilliwaup, Eagle and Jorsted creeks.

West Hood Canal fall chum escapements declined during the 1980s but have been strong since the early 1990s. The stock is rated **Healthy** in 2002.

STOCK DEFINITION

West Hood Canal fall chum were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution. Most spawning streams are close enough in proximity to allow gene flow among them.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Spawning takes place in numerous small, independent west Hood Canal streams including Hill, Clark, Miller, Sund, Little Lilliwaup, Eagle and Jorsted creeks.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from November through January.

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GENETIC ANALYSIS: West Hood Canal fall chum are genetically indistinguishable from Hoodsport Hatchery fall chum (Phelps et al. 1995). Separate stock status is based on the geographic distances among these streams and other chum-bearing streams in Hood Canal and the likely degree of reproductive isolation from other Hood Canal fall chum stocks.

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. Intense hatchery introductions and straying from the nearby Hoodsport Hatchery stock into these streams have probably either established introduced runs or impacted native chum such that they can no longer be distinguished from the hatchery stock.