

# STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA— LOWER DUNGENESS PINK

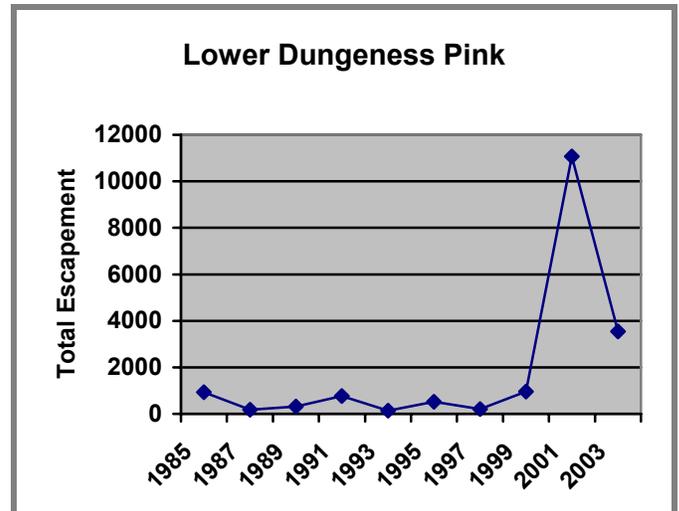
## STOCK STATUS

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

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: *Good*

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1985	966
1987	138
1989	323
1991	763
1993	139
1995	515
1997	205
1999	956
2001	11,072
2003	3,540



Data are total escapement estimates based on counts of live plus dead spawners on the mainstem Dungeness (RM 0.0 –18.7), in Gold Creek (RM 0.0 to 0.3) and the Gray Wolf River (RM 0.0 to 2.5).

Lower Dungeness pink escapements declined abruptly in 1981 and have remained low in subsequent years. Pre-decline escapements usually exceeded 10,000 spawners. Favorable freshwater conditions during the winter of 1999-2000 and excellent marine conditions produced the largest return of Lower Dungeness pinks since the 1960s. The year 2001 notwithstanding, stock status is rated **Critical** in 2002 due to **chronically low** escapements.

## STOCK DEFINITION

Lower Dungeness pinks were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution, and later return and spawning timing.

**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Most spawning takes place in the lower six miles of the Dungeness River.

**SPAWNING TIMING:** Spawning occurs from mid-September to late October

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** Allozyme analysis has shown that Lower Dungeness pinks are genetically distinct from all other Washington pink stocks examined.

## STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **composite** production. A supplementation program to rebuild stock numbers is underway at the WDFW Dungeness Hatchery.