

NOOKSACK/SAMISH – MAINSTEM/NORTH FORK NOOKSACK WINTER STEELHEAD

STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS	2002 STATUS
Unknown	Unknown

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

Escapement data have been collected inconsistently for this stock. Consequently stock status is rated **Unknown** in 2002. Aerial surveys of the North Fork and Middle Fork are now being conducted, but escapement estimates are not yet available. Status may be Depressed because of recent flooding and habitat instability.

STOCK DEFINITION

Mainstem/North Fork Nooksack winter steelhead were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Spawning takes place in the mainstem Nooksack, North Fork Nooksack and their tributaries.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from early March to early July.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Allozyme analysis of steelhead sampled from the North Fork Nooksack in 1995 showed them to be very different from the South Fork Nooksack summer steelhead stock. They clustered with Finney Creek (Skagit basin) summer steelhead, a mixed sample of Cascade (Skagit basin) summer and winter steelhead and to Deer Creek (Stillaguamish basin) summer steelhead (Phelps et al. 1997).

STOCK ORIGIN

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