

SNAKE RIVER – TUCANNON SUMMER STEELHEAD

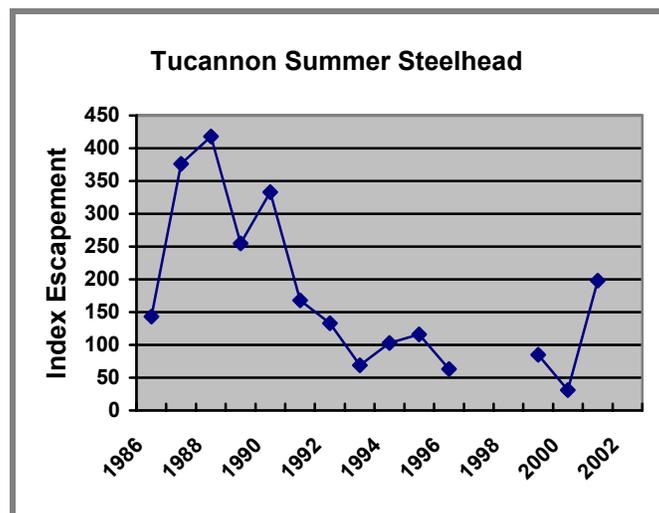
STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS Depressed	2002 STATUS Depressed
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STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Fair

YEAR	INDEX ESCAPEMENT
1986	143
1987	376
1988	418
1989	255
1990	333
1991	168
1992	133
1993	69
1994	103
1995	116
1996	63
1997	No data
1998	No data
1999	85
2000	31
2001	198
2002	No data
2003	No data



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Data are index escapement estimates based on spawner counts in the Tucannon from the mouth of Sheep Creek downstream to Highway 12 and in Cummings Creek.

Escapement index estimates declined until 2001 when escapement increased. Nonetheless, stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 because of **chronically low** escapement values. The current escapement goal is 600 spawners, though the goal from a recent run of the Potential Parr Production model (Gibbons et al. 1985) is 1,299 spawners, and the NOAA Fisheries interim recovery goal is 1,300 (Glen Mendel, WDFW, personal communication)

STOCK DEFINITION

Tucannon summer steelhead were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Spawning takes place in the mainstem Tucannon River and in most of its tributaries, especially Pataha Creek and Cummings Creek.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from February through May.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Microsatellite DNA analysis has shown a distinction between Lyons Ferry Hatchery summer steelhead and naturally-produced Tucannon summer steelhead (Shaklee and Young 2000a). More recent analysis (Small 2003b) indicates that naturally-spawning Tucannon summer steelhead remain distinct from Lyons Ferry fish and are also distinct from natural-origin steelhead in the Walla Walla and Touchet rivers and from Tucannon hatchery-origin fish. Hatchery-origin steelhead returning to the Tucannon River are from multiple stocks (Shaklee and Young 2000a). Earlier collections of Tucannon wild steelhead were more distinct from hatchery-origin fish than later collections of Tucannon wild steelhead. It may be that hatchery-origin steelhead are introgressing with wild steelhead, causing them to become more similar to one another (Small 2003b).

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **mixed** stock with **composite** production. Summer steelhead from the Lyons Ferry and Tucannon hatcheries have been released into the Tucannon since 1979.