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28 March 2003

To: Russ Kiefer, IDFG
From: Chris Peery
Re: Spawning status of radio-tagged adult chinook salmon

Below is a summary of the radio-tagged chinook salmon that we have information on spawning status at the time carcasses were found and inspected during spawning ground surveys. I have added the summary to date (as of 21 March 03) for tags returned to us from the 2002 migration year. Most of this information was collected by other agencies and provide to us at the time tags were returned. Let me know if you have any questions. CAP

1996-2001 Data

Between years 1996-2001, sixty-six spring and summer chinook with transmitters were found during spawning ground surveys in the Mid-Columbia and Snake River basin tributaries; 60 (90.9%) were greater than 50% spawned and 6 (9.0%) were less than 50% spawned.

In the Lower Columbia River we had spawning ground information for eight spring, summer, or fall chinook between 1997 - 2001. Additionally, two spring chinook were reported in 1997 as spawning in the Lochsa and Grande Rhonde River drainages. These two fish were outfitted with transmitters at Lower Granite Dam and released into the ladder, no fallback events or exits were recorded and both fish were greater than 50% spawned.

2002 Data

Spring and summer chinook salmon

There were 12 spring and summer chinook found on spawning grounds that were inspected for spawn condition; 10 were 100% spawned (4 SF Salmon, 1 Lolo Cr, 1 NF John Day R, 2 Deschutes R, 1 Methow R, 1 Okanogan R), 1 was 95% spawned (SFSR), 1 was 50% spawned (SFSR, partially eaten carcass). There were also 2 male carcasses found that were noted as 'partial spawned' in the Yakima River.

Fall chinook salmon

There were 22 fall chinook salmon that had been inspected for spawn condition; 1 was 0% spawned, 1 was 50% spawned, and 20 were 100% spawned. Two were from the Deschutes River, the remaining fish were located in the Columbia River, Hanford Reach.