# PROGRESS REPORTS 

## FISH DIVISION

## Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Catch and Escapement of Fall Chinook Salmon from
Salmon River, Oregon, 1987

| PROJECT TITLE: | Catch and Escapement of Fall Chinook Salmon from <br> Salmon River, Oregon, 1987 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| CONTRACT NUMBER: | NA-87-ABH-00017 |
| PROJECT PERIOD: | 15 June 1987 to 30 June 1988 |

Prepared by: Steven E. Jacobs Jeffrey L. Boechler

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife 506 S.W. Mill Street P.O. Box 59 Portland, OR 97207

## SUMMARY

## Objectives

1. Estimate the total number of all salmonids and the number of coded-wire tagged (CWT) fall chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery harvested in the Salmon River fall recreational fishery in 1987.
2. Estimate the total number of fall chinook salmon and the number of CWT fall chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery that escaped to natural spawning areas in the Salmon River Basin in 1987.
3. Determine the number of CWT fall chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery captured and retained at Salmon River Fish Hatchery in 1987.
4. Evaluate the adequacy of methods used in 1987 to estimate ocean escapement of fall chinook salmon to Salmon River.
5. Compile estimates of recoveries of CWT fall chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery harvested in 1987 Pacific Ocean fisheries.
6. Estimate the age and sex composition of fall chinook salmon escaping to Salmon River in 1987.
7. Collect data for evaluating Oregon coastal chinook salmon spawning ground surveys.
8. Report other data derived from the creel survey and spawning ground surveys conducted in 1987 that are useful to the understanding and management of Oregon's coastal stocks of chinook salmon.

## Accomplishments

All Objectives were accomplished.

## Findings

## Recreational Fishery

We estimated that $1,431 \pm 113$ fall chinook salmon were harvested in the Salmon River recreational fishèry in 1987. This catch was composed of an estimated 1,383 adult, and 48 jack chinook salmon, and represents inriver harvest rates of $31 \%$ and $39 \%$ of the total estimated ocean escapement of adult and jack chinook salmon, respectively. The estimated harvest of CWT chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery was 159 adults (1982-84 brood years) and 10 jacks ( 1985 brood year).

## Escapement to Natural Spawning Areas

We estimated that $2,896 \pm 118$ fall chinook salmon migrated upstream of River Mile 4.3 in 1987. This ēstimate was partitioned into stratified estimates of 1,734 adult male, 1,091 adult female, and 62 jack fall chinook salmon, and represents spawning escapement rates of $61.6 \%$ and $50.4 \%$ of the total estimated ocean escapement of adults and jacks, respectively. The estimated upriver escapement of CWT chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery was 93 adults, and 0 jacks.

## Hatchery Recovery

Salmon River Fish Hatchery retained 330 adult and 13 jack fall chinook salmon in 1987. Retention of chinook salmon by the hatchery accounted for $7.4 \%$ and $10.6 \%$ of the total estimated ocean escapement of adults and jacks, respectively. Hatchery personnel recovered and retained 220 adult and 9 jack CWT chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery.

## Ocean Coded-wire Tag Recoveries

The Pacific Márine Fisheries Commission estimated that 228 adult and one jack CWT Salmon River chinook salmon were harvested in ocean fisheries in 1987. The majority of these tag recoveries occurred in British Columbia (127 recoveries) and Alaska ( 79 recoveries) commercial fisheries.

## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Act the Ocean Salmon Management Section of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildife developed a program in 1986 to monitor the catch and escapement of coastal stocks of chinook salmon Oncorhynchus tshawytscha that contribute to fisheries addressed by the PST (Boechler and Jacobs 1987). A goal of this program is to estimate the exploitation rate of north-migrating stocks of Oregon coastal fall chinook salmon. The approach used to accomplish this goal is to estimate the total catch and escapement of a representative portion (indicator stock) of these stocks. Coded-wire tagged (CWT) fall chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery have been selected as this exploitation rate indicator stock.

Total ocean catch of CWT chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery is estimated from data collected in port sampling programs throughout the Pacific coast. These estimates are available through the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, Portland, Oregon. Our objective is to estimate the ocean escapement of CWT fall chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery and, from these escapement estimates and estimates of ocean catch, derive estimates of exploitation rate. Returning chinook salmon migrate up the Salmon River are (1) caught in the recreational fishery downstream from the hatchery, (2) captured at the hatchery, (3) caught in the recreational fishery upstream from the hatchery, or (4) attempt to naturally spawn in the river basin. We estimated freshwater harvest directly with a creel survey, recorded
hatchery returns as they were recovered, and estimated the number of chinook salmon escaping to natural spawning areas using mark-recapture techniques and extensive spawning surveys.

An additional goal of this program is to analyze and calibrate the spawning fish surveys conducted for fall chinook salmon, and to present additional results derived from the creel survey and spawning ground surveys. Currently, fall chinook salmon spawning surveys conducted in ODFW are used only to assess long-term trends in escapement (Jacobs 1988). In compliance with PST monitoring, we need the ability to assess short-term changes in escapement relative to changes in ocean harvest patterns. Information from this project may provide means to evaluate the precision of these surveys and to develop a procedure for estimating the total escapement of fall chinook salmon from spawning survey data.

This report presents results of the second year of this study. Results obtained in 1986 were presented in Boechler and Jacobs (1987). The objectives of this report are to (1) assess the adequacy of methodologies used in 1987 to estimate the ocean escapement of fall chinook salmon to Salmon River, (2) present estimates of 1987 catch and escapement of fall chinook salmon from Salmon River, (3) document results of spawning surveys conducted in Salmon River in 1987 that will be used to evaluate coastal spawning escapement surveys and (4) present additional results derived from the creel survey and spawning ground surveys that are important to the understanding and management of Oregon's coastal chinook salmon stocks.

## METHODS

The methods used to estimate ocean escapement of Salmon River fall chinook salmon in 1987 were previously described by Boechler and Jacobs (1987). Several modifications were enacted to improve the 1987 estimates. These modifications follow:

## Recreational Fishery

1. The survey was conducted from 15 August through 22 November. From 19 September through 2 November, sampling effort was doubled with the addition of a second surveyor.
2. The creel survey encompassed the area from just downstream of the U. S. Highway 101 Bridge (RM 1.8) upstream to the State Highway 18 bridge (near the mouth of Widow Creek, RM 10.3). This change added 8.6 km to the area surveyed in 1986 and was enacted to provide a means to estimate the harvest of chinook salmon upstream from the hatchery.
3. The estimated number of adipose-clipped salmon harvested in the recreational fishery each week (by adults or jacks of each species) was calculated by multiplying the proportion of adipose-clipped fish in the sample by the total estimated catch of salmon as follows:

$$
T_{j w}=T_{W}\left[\left(\sum_{k=1}^{m} Y_{k j w} / \sum_{k=1}^{m} Y_{k W}\right)\right]
$$

where
$\begin{aligned} & \\ & T_{j w}=\text { the total catch of a given fish type with adipose clips } \\ & \text { in week } w,\end{aligned}$
$T_{W}=$ the total catch of a given fish type in week $w$,
$Y_{k j w}=$ the number of fish sampled of a given type with adipose clips caught by angler $k$ in week $w$,
$Y_{k w}=$ the number of fish sampled of a given type caught by angler $k$ in week, and
$\mathrm{m}=$ number of anglers interviewed in week $\mathbf{w}$.
Estimates of variance were not calculated for the estimated catch of adipose-clipped fish.
4. Catch rate was sampled independently during each interview session. In 1986, anglers were re-interviewed if they were encountered during more than one interview session in the course of one shift. Each time an angler was interviewed his total hours of effort and total catch was recorded regardless of whether a portion of these data was already recorded earlier in the day. In 1987, we recorded only the effort and catch that occurred after the previous interview session for anglers that were interviewed repeatedly.

## Escapement to Natural Spawning Areas

1. Because of low river flows, substantial numbers of fall chinook salmon spawned within a 0.8 km reach of Salmon River immediately downstream from the fish hatchery. The estimate of the natural spawning escapement in 1987 includes these fish, and therefore estimates the number of chinook salmon migrating upstream from River Mile 4.3. To include these fish recoveries of tagged and untagged fish in RM 4.4-4.8 were added to corresponding recoveries from other areas of the basin.
2. The population estimate was partitioned into length and sex strata to compensate for differential carcass recovery rates of different sizes and sexes of spawning chinook salmon. The number of fish tagged (M), tagged carcasses recovered (R), and carcasses sampled (C) were partitioned into 200 mm length intervals by sex, and the stratified population estimates were calculated according to Equation 11 in Boechler and Jacobs (1987).
3. To assess the validity of the assumption that tagged fish suffer the same natural mortality as untagged fish, we estimated the relative incidence of prespawning mortality in tagged and untagged chinook salmon. All female chinook salmon carcasses recovered on the spawning ground surveys were examined for signs of prespawning mortality (intact ovaries).
4. The electric barrier was not operated. Because of low flow in Salmon River in 1987, we were able to capture a large number of chinook salmon at the hatchery without operating the electric barrier.

## Coded-wire Tag Recoveries

1. Expansion factors for CWT recoveries in the creel survey were calculated using equation 14 in Boechler and Jacobs (1987).
2. Expansion factors for CWT chinook salmon recovered on spawning ground surveys were stratified by 200 mm length intervals and by sex.

## RESULTS

## Recreational Fishery

Results of the creel survey conducted in 1987 are presented in Tables 1-3. Estimates of the age composition of chinook salmon harvested in the 1987 sport fishery are presented in APPENDIX A.

Table 1. The estimated harvest $\pm 95 \%$ confidence intervals, of salmonids in the Salmon River recreational fishery ${ }^{\text {a }}$, 1987.

| Species ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | Adults | Jacks $^{c}$ | Total |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | ---: |
| Chinook salmon | $1,383 \pm 111$ | $48 \pm 22$ | $1,431 \pm 113$ |
| Coho salmon | $95 \pm 28$ | $117 \pm 33$ | $212 \pm 44$ |
| Chum salmon | $12 \pm 11$ | -- | $12 \pm 11$ |
| Steelhead | $10 \pm 10$ | 0 | $10 \pm 10$ |
| Cutthroat trout | $123 \pm 50$ | -- | $123 \pm 50$ |

[^0]Table 2. Estimated angler effort, catch rate and total catch of fall chinook salmon in the Salmon River recreational fishery, 1987. $\mathrm{RM}=$ river mile.

| Stratum | Effort (Angler-Hrs.) | Catch rate <br> (Hrs./fish) |  | Total catch |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Adults | Jacks | Adults | Jacks |
| Area: |  |  |  |  |  |
| RM 1.8 to 4.3 | 46,752 | 39.6 | 1,854.2 | 1,133 | 25 |
| RM 4.3 to 4.9 | 10,102 | 53.2 | 449.2 | 166 | 23 |
| RM 4.9 to 10.3 | 1,364 | 16.9 | 0 | 84 | 0 |
| Day-type: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekday | 34,677 | 39.2 | 1,102.8 | 833 | 31 |
| Weekend/holiday | 23,541 | 40.6 | 1,550.7 | 550 | 17 |
| Angler-type: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Boat | 19,170 | 28.9 | 1,427.6 | 678 | 13 |
| Bank | 39,048 | 53.3 | 1,237.1 | 705 | 35 |
| Total fishery | 58,218 | 39.9 | 1,306.4 | 1,383 | 48 |

Table 3. Temporal distribution of angling effort, catch rate and total catch of fall chinook salmon in the Salmon River recreational fishery, 1987.

| Statistical week | $\begin{gathered} \text { Effort } \\ \text { (Angler-hrs) } \end{gathered}$ | Catch rate ( $\mathrm{Hrs} / \mathrm{fish}$ ) |  | Total catch |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Adults | Jacks |
| 10-16 Aug. ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 219 | 91.0 | -- | 2 | 0 |
| 17-23 Aug. | 859 | 229.0 | -- | 3 | 0 |
| 24-30 Aug. | 1,180 | 59.4 | 297.0 | 18 | 4 |
| 31 Aug-6 Sep | 1,238 | 43.6 | -7.0 | 26 | 3 |
| 7-13 Sep | 2,925 | 23.1 | 971.0 | 106 | 3 |
| 14-20 Sep | 6,751 | 38.9 | 919.7 | 165 | 5 |
| 21-27 Sep | 9,150 | 38.6 | 672.3 | 224 | 14 |
| 28 Sep-4 Oct | 8,462 | 39.3 | 4,994.0 | 197 | 2 |
| 5-11 0ct | 6,743 | 49.7 | 1,689.5 | 130 | 3 |
| 12-18 Oct | 5,583 | 40.0 | 3,356.0 | 125 | 3 |
| 19-25 Oct | 5,646 | 50.5 | 3,230.0 | 125 | 3 |
| 26 Oct-1 Nov | 3,578 | 37.0 | 563.8 | 89 | 7 |
| 2-8 Nov ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 3,039 | 47.5 | 950.0 | 59 | 4 |
| $9-15$ Nov ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 2,106 | 20.2 | -- | 103 | 0 |
| 16-22 Nova, ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 739 | 64.6 | -- | 11 | 0 |
| Average | 4,405 ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 39.9 | 1,306.4 | -- | 4 |
| Total | 8,218 | -- | -- | 1,383 | 48 |

[^1]
## Escapement to Natural Spawning Areas

Results of the mark-recapture study conducted in 1987 to estimate the natural spawning escapement of chinook salmon are presented in Tables 4-9, Figures 1-4, and APPENDIXES A and B.

Table 4. Number of Salmon River fall chinook salmon tagged and recovered, by individual tag color, 1987.

|  |  | Number tagged |  |  | Tags recovered |  |  | Recovery rate (\%) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tag color | Tagging period | Male | Female | Jack | Male | Female | Jack | Male | Female | Jack | Total |
| Dark blue | 9-23 Oct | 40 | 2 | 7 | 22 | 2 | 1 | 55.0 | 100.0 | 14.3 | 51.0 |
| Pink | 26-30 0ct | 166 | 91 | 9 | 81 | 60 | 7 | 48.8 | 65.9 | 77.8 | 55.6 |
| Green | 2 Nov-6 Nov | 617 | 313 | 16 | 350 | 194 | 5 | 56.7 | 62.0 | 31.3 | 58.0 |
| Grey | 9-13 Nov | 207 | 142 | 5 | 90 | 61 | 1 | 43.5 | 43.0 | 20.0 | 42.9 |
| Red | 15-24 Nov | 73 | 64 | 3 | 12 | 19 | 0 | 16.4 | 29.7 | 0.0 | 22.1 |
| Yellow | 27 Nov-3 Dec | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 16.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 12.5 |
| Total |  | 1,109 | 614 | 40 | 556 | 336 | 14 | 50.1 | 54.7 | 35.0 | 51.4 |

Table 5. Average time elapsed between marking and recapture of fall chinook salmon in the Salmon River mark-recapture study, 1987.

|  | Tagging period | Recovery period | Average elapsed <br> time to <br> recovery (days) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Tag color |  |  |  |
| Dark blue | $9-23$ Oct | $4-18$ Nov | 18.3 |
| Pink | $26-30$ Oct | $4-30$ Nov | 12.9 |
| Green | 2 Nov-6 Nov | 4 Nov-23 Dec | 14.4 |
| Grey | $9-13$ Nov | 10 Nov-6 Jan | 18.6 |
| Red | $16-24$ Nov | 24 Nov-4 Jan | 20.3 |
| Yellow | 27 Nov-3 Dec | 16 Dec | 17.0 |
| Total |  |  | 15.2 |

Table 6. Incidence of prespawning mortality observed in tagged and untagged female fall chinook salmon sampled on spawning ground surveys within the Salmon River basin, 1987. RM = river mile.

| Survey area | Anchor-tagged |  | Untagged |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total sampled | Percent prespawning mortality | Total sampled | Percent prespawning mortality |
| Mainstem: |  |  |  |  |
| RM 4.4-4.9 | 31 | 12.9 | 111 | 19.8 |
| RM 4.9 | 11 | 9.1 | 1 | -- |
| RM 4.9-6.4 | 196 | 11.2 | 68 | 5.9 |
| RM 6.4-8.8 | 51 | 7.8 | 14 | 14.3 |
| RM 10.3-12.6 | 7 | 14.3 | 10 | -- |
| RM 12.6-13.7 | 2 | -- | 1 | -- |
| RM 13.7-16.3 | 0 | -- | 7 | -- |
| Total | 298 | 10.7 | 212 | 13.2 |
| Tributaries: |  |  |  |  |
| Lower Bear Cr . | 11 | 9.1 | 13 | -- |
| Middle Bear Cr. | 0 | -- | 1 | -- |
| Upper Bear Cr . | 0 | -- | 0 | -- |
| Slick Rock Cr . | 12 | 8.3 | 7 | -- |
| Trout Cr. | 1 | 100.0 | 1 | -- |
| Total | 24 | 12.5 | 22 | -- |
| Basin Total | 322 | 10.9 | 234 | 12.0 |

Table 7. Estimated number of fall chinook salmon escaping to natural spawning areas upstream from River Mile 4.3 in the Salmon River basin, 1987. The estimated escapement is stratified by length and sex.

| Fork length interval (mm) | Tagged <br> (M) | Sampled <br> (C) | Recaptured <br> (R) | Recovery <br> Rate (\%) <br> (R/M x 100) | Point estimate (N) | 95\% confidence limits |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Males: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 400-599 | 37 | 22 | 14 | 37.8 | 58 | 41-75 |
| 600-799 | 383 | 246 | 170 | 44.4 | 555 | 509-601 |
| 800-999 | 616 | 483 | 318 | 51.6 | 936 | 876-996 |
| 1000-1199 | 113 | 140 | 68 | 60.2 | 233 | 194-272 |
| Total males | 1,149 | 891 | 570 | 49.6 | 1,796 ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 1,708-1,884 |
| Femates: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 400-599 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - - | 0 |  |
| 600-799 | 23 | 8 | 6 | 26.1 | 31 | 21-41 |
| 800-999 | 380 | 318 | 190 | 50.0 | 636 | 579-693 |
| 1000-1199 | 211 | 271 | 140 | 66.4 | 409 | 362-456 |
| Total females | 614 | 597 | 336 | 54.7 | $1,091{ }^{\text {a }}$ | 1,014-1,168 |
| Total | 1,763 | 1,488 | 906 | 51.4 | $2,896^{\text {a }}$ | 2,778-3,014 |

a Independent estimate based upon the total number of fish tagged, recovered,and sampled.

Table 8. Disposition of run to the river for fall chinook salmon in Salmon River, 1987.

| Stratum | Inriver harvest |  | Natural spawning |  | Hatchery retention |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | \% |  | \% |  | \% |  |
| Adults | 1,383 | 31.0 | 2,742 | 61.6 | 330 | 7.4 | 4,455 |
| Jacks ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 48 | 39.0 | 62 | 50.4 | 13 | 10.6 | 123 |
| Total | 1,431 | 31.2 | 2,812 | 61.3 | 343 | 7.5 | 4,586 |



Figure l. Temporal distribution of live and dead chinook salmon, and tagged and untagged chinook salmon carcasses observed on spawning ground surveys in the Salmon River basin, 1987. The total distance (kilometers) surveyed each week is presented at the top of the bars in the top half of the figure. Timing is based on Julian months.



Figure 3. Size composition of female fall chinook salmon tagged and released, and recovered either tagged or untagged on spawning surveys in the Salmon River basin, 1987.


Figure 4. Size composition of male fall chinook salmon tagged and released, and recovered either tagged or untagged on spawning surveys in the Salmon River basin, 1987.

## Coded-wire Tag Recoveries

Estimates of 1987 recoveries of CWT chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery are presented in Table 9. Expansion factors used to calculate these estimates appear in APPENDIX C. Estimates of recoveries of CWT chinook salmon from Salmon River Fish Hatchery by individual brood year beginning with 1982 appear in APPENDIX D.

Table 9. Estimated harvest and escapement of Salmon River coded-wire tagged fall chinook salmon, 1987. $A K=A l a s k a, B C=B r i t i s h ~ C o l u m b i a, ~ W A=$ Washington, $O R=$ Oregon and $C A=$ California.

| Brood year <br> (tag code) | Ocean harvest |  |  |  |  | Salmon River catch and escapement |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | AK | BC | WA | OR | CA | Inriver harvest | Hatchery recovery | Spawning escapement | Total |
| 1982 (07 26 47) | 41 | 55 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 65 | 60 | 27 | 250 |
| 1983 (07 27 26) | 29 | 38 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 47 | 68 | 35 | 225 |
| 1984 (07 30 51) | 2 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 21 | 48 | 20 | 111 |
| 1984 (07 30 52) | 7 | 18 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 26 | 44 | 11 | 106 |
| 1985 (07 33 29) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 14 |
| 1985 (07 33 30) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 8 |

## DISCUSSION

## Recreational Fishery

Our sampling indicated that anglers expended 58,218 total hours of effort to harvest 1,431 fall chinook salmon in Salmon River in 1987. This harvest represented approximately $31 \%$ of the total number of chinook salmon that entered the Salmon River Basin in 1987. Most chinook salmon harvested in 1987 were caught by anglers that fished in Tidewater (RM 1.8-4.3). The high proportion of fish caught in this portion of the basin was due in part to extended low river flow in 1987 that restricted upstream movement of chinook salmon beyond areas influenced by tidal activity. The estimated 84 chinook salmon caught upstream from the hatchery (RM 4.9-10.3) represents a minimal estimate of harvest in this area of the river in 1987. Because the creel survey in this area of the river began after the start of salmon angling and because of inaccessibility of some angling locations, our sampling probably underestimated catch. However, we feel the magnitude of this bias was not large, and our estimate indicates that the vast majority of chinook salmon passing the hatchery escaped to spawn.

Sampling catch rate independently during each interview session provided a means for estimating rate of sampling by comparing the number of fish sampled to the total estimated catch. Overall we sampled $52 \%$ of chinook salmon that were caught in the 1987 Salmon River recreational fishery. Our estimated sampling rate, by daytype, was $40.5 \%$ on weekday days and $69.1 \%$ on weekend and holiday days. These rates of sampling were achieved with a survey that used two samplers during the most intensive portion of the angling season (19 September-2 November). Using only one sampler throughout the angling season would have resulted in an estimated $29.5 \%$ of the chinook salmon being sampled. This rate of sampling would have resulted in estimates of the catch of total and marked chinook salmon within $1.3 \%$ and $4.1 \%$, respectively of those presented in Table 1. Because of the high level of precision among catch estimated by the two sampling rates, we will conduct the creel survey in 1988 using only one sampler.

## Escapement to Natural Spawning Areas

We estimated that 2,896 fall chinook salmon migrated upstream from River Mile 4.3 in 1987. Approximately $20 \%$ of these fish did not pass above Salmon River Fish Hatchery and spawned in a 0.5 km stretch immediately downstream from the hatchery. Spawning downstream from the hatchery occurred because of persistent low river flow throughout October that hindered upstream movement. The 1987 escapement estimate composed approximately $61 \%$ of the total number of chinook salmon that entered the Salmon River. These results are similar to results in 1986 when we estimated that the natural spawning escapement was 2,492 fall chinook salmon (approximately $60 \%$ of the total ocean escapement), however, because of more typical river flow, essentially all natural spawning occurred upstream from the hatchery.

The methods used to estimate the natural spawning escapement of fall chinook salmon were modified slightly in 1987. The most important change involved partitioning the population estimate into length and sex strata to compensate for differential carcass recovery rates of different sizes and sexes of spawning chinook salmon. The new procedure provided escapement estimates based upon carcass size (length), and provided direct size-sex compensation for differential carcass recovery rates. In 1986, the compensation for differential recovery rates involved partitioning the estimates by age and sex, which was only an indirect compensation for carcass size.

The temporal spawning distribution of fall chinook salmon observed in 1987 was similar to that observed in 1986. In 1987, the peak count for spawning chinook salmon occurred during the first week of November (Figure 1). This peak occurred soon after the first rainfall of the season, and coincided with a very large release of anchor-tagged chinook salmon from the hatchery. In 1986, the peak count occurred during the second week of November. In 1987, approximately $85 \%$ of the chinook salmon spawned in the lower 14 km of the mainstem, with less than $10 \%$ spawning in tributaries (Figure 2). This contrasts the spatial distribution of spawning observed in 1986, when more normal river flow allowed spawning to occur throughout the basin.

Overall, methodologies used to estimate the spawning escapement of fall chinook salmon in 1987 appeared to be adequate despite several anomalies resulting from drought conditions that existed during the fall. Ricker (1975) lists several assumptions that must be met to justify the use of the Petersen formula in making an unbiased population estimate. A discussion of the relevance of these assumptions to our estimate in 1987 follows:

1. Marked fish suffer the same natural mortality as unmarked fish.

We collected data to estimate the relative incidence of prespawning mortality in tagged and untagged chinook salmon to assess the assumption that tagged fish suffer the same natural mortality as untagged fish. A total of 556 female chinook salmon carcasses ( 322 tagged and 234 untagged) recovered on the spawning grounds were examined for signs of prespawning mortality (intact ovaries). The overall incidence of prespawning mortality was $10.9 \%$ for tagged, and $12.0 \%$ for untagged carcasses (Table 10). This difference was not significant ( $P=0.69, X^{2}$ ), so we conclude that the incidence of prespawning mortality in tagged fish is not significantly different than that which occurred naturally.
2. Marked fish are as vulnerable to sampling as are unmarked fish.

This subject was previously discussed by Boechler and Jacobs (1987). These conclusions also apply to the 1987 estimate.
3. Marked fish do not lose their mark.

The magnitude of tag loss was assessed by marking each fish with two tags. Surveyors recovering tagged carcasses noted the number of tags present. Of the 906 tagged carcasses recovered, we observed only 28 which had lost one tag. At this rate, assuming loss of each tag occurred independently, approximately $0.1 \%$ of the fish would have lost both tags. We felt that this tag loss rate was insignificant so no adjustment was made to the population estimate.
4. Marked fish become randomly mixed with, and are representative of unmarked fish.

Generally, the sex composition of tagged carcasses recovered on the spawning grounds was very similar to that of untagged carcasses. The sex composition of the tagged carcasses was $61.4 \%$ males, $37.1 \%$ females, and 1.5\% jacks. The sex composition of the untagged carcasses was 53.8\% males, $44.8 \%$ females, and $1.4 \%$ jacks. Furthermore, the sum of the estimated population size of individual sex strata were within $2 \%$ of the overall population estimate (Table 7). Therefore we feel tagged fish were representative of the untagged with regard to sex composition.

The size composition of tagged and untagged carcasses appear to be comparable. Relative length frequencies of tagged and untagged chinook salmon carcasses, for both males and females, were similar (Figures 3 and 4). Further, differences in size composition between marked and unmarked fish were not large enough to cause significant biases in the population estimate because sums of population estimates calculated from
intermediates within 200 mm length strata differed by less than $1 \%$ and $2 \%$ of the overall population estimates for males and females, respectively (Table 7).

Generally, the temporal distribution of carcass recovery was similar among tagged and untagged chinook salmon with the exception that untagged carcasses were recovered somewhat later in the season than were tagged carcasses (Figure 1). Any resulting bias in the population estimate because of differences in the temporal distribution of carcass recovery was probably not large because $80 \%$ of the untagged carcasses were recovered during a period when little variation occurred in carcass recovery rates.

The spatial distribution of tagged carcasses differed from that of untagged carcasses and ( $P<0.001, \chi^{2}$; Figure 2). This difference was primarily due to low river flow hindering upstream movement, and resulted in a large proportion of unmarked carcasses spawning downstream from the hatchery. Because all fish were marked at the hatchery, marked fish almost exclusively spawned upstream from this point, and the only marked carcasses that were recovered downstream from the hatchery were carcasses that washed downriver during freshets and the few marked fish that dropped downstream after being tagged. Biases in the population estimate that resulted from this difference probably were not large because the majority of the remaining untagged carcass recoveries and nearly $70 \%$ of the tagged carcass recoveries: (1) occurred within 2.4 km of the location where untagged carcasses were recovered below the hatchery, and (2) occurred during a perind when carcass recovery conditions (river flow and water visibility) were similar among these locations.
5. All marks are recognized and reported on recovery.

This subject was previously discussed by Boechler and Jacobs (1987).
These conclusions also apply to the 1987 estimate.
6. Only a negligible amount of recruitment to the catchable population occurs during the time of sampling.

This subject was previously discussed by Boechler and Jacobs (1987). These conclusions also apply to the 1987 estimate.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank the staff at Salmon River Fish Hatchery for their assistance; Phil Flanders for processing the creel data; Ted Erickson, Mike Gray and Mark Lewis for assisting in data collection, Tim Walters for scale analysis, and Lori Turner for word processing. We would also like to thank Wayne Burck and Ron Williams for reviewing the manuscript.

## REFERENCES

Boechler, J.L., and S.E. Jacobs. 1987. Catch and escapement of fall chinook salmon from Salmon River, Oregon, 1986. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Annual Progress Report, Portland.

Jacobs, S.E. 1988. Oregon coastal salmon spawning surveys, 1985. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish Division Report, Portland.

Ricker, W.E. 1975. Computation and interpretation of biological statistics of fish populations. Fisheries Research Board of Canada, Bulletin 191.

## APPENDIX A

Age Composition of Scales Collected from Adult Fall Chinook Salmon in the Salmon River Basin, 1987

Appendix Table A-1. Age composition of scales collected from fall chinook salmon harvested in the Salmon River sport fishery, 1987.

| Age | MaTe |  | Female |  | Sex unknown (Number) | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | \% | Number | \% |  | Number | \% |
| 2 | 12 | 5.1 | 0 | -- | 0 | 12 | 2.9 |
| 3 | 68 | 28.9 | 4 | 2.3 | 0 | 72 | 17.6 |
| 4 | 109 | 46.4 | 53 | 30.6 | 1 | 163 | 39.9 |
| 5 | 41 | 17.5 | 107 | 61.9 | 0 | 148 | 36.2 |
| 6 | 5 | 2.1 | 9 | 5.2 | 0 | 14 | 3.4 |

Appendix Table A-2. Age composition of scales collected from untagged fall chinook salmon carcasses recovered on spawning ground surveys in the Salmon River Basin, 1987.

| Age | Male |  | Female |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Sex unknown } \\ & \text { (Number) } \end{aligned}$ | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | \% | Number | \% |  | Number | \% |
| 2 | 6 | 1.9 | 0 | -- | 0 | 6 | 1.1 |
| 3 | 90 | 29.1 | 3 | 1.3 | 1 | 94 | 17.3 |
| 4 | 135 | 43.6 | 67 | 28.6 | 0 | 202 | 37.1 |
| 5 | 73 | 23.6 | 138 | 59.0 | 0 | 211 | 38.8 |
| 6 | 5 | 1.6 | 26 | 11.1 | 0 | 31 | 5.7 |

## APPENDIX B

Results of Spawning Ground Surveys Conducted in the Salmon River Basin, 1987.






## 








[^2]










## APPENDIX C

Data and Expansion Factors used to Calculate Estimates of Coded-wire Tagged Fall Chinook Salmon in the Salmon River Basin, 1987.

Appendix Table C-1. Data and expansion factors used to calculate the weekly estimates of coded-wire tagged fall chinook salmon caught in the Salmon River recreational fishery, 1987.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Statist | ical | $\text { veek }{ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CWT expansion component | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 |
| ADULTS: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated catch (N) | 2 | 3 | 18 | 26 | 106 | 165 | 224 | 197 | 130 | 125 | 125 | 89 | 59 | 103 | 11 |
| Fish sampled (T) | 1 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 40 | 69 | 117 | 122 | 67 | 84 | 59 | 60 | 17 | 40 | 5 |
| Ad-clips observed (A) | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Snouts recovered ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 19 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Snouts processed (S) | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 19 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Snouts with CWTs (W) | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Snouts without CWTs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CWTs decoded (D) | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| CWT expansion factor (E) | -- | -- | 5.40 | 1.44 | 42.65 | 53.59 | 2.15 | 1.70 | 1.72 | 1.49 | 1.91 | 1.73 | -* | 2.58 | - |
| JACKS: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated catch (N) | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Fish sampled ( $T$ ) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ad-clips observed (A) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Snouts recovered ${ }^{\text {b }}$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Snouts processed (S) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Snouts with CWTs (W) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Snouts without CWTs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CWTs decoded (D) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CWT expansion factor (E) | -- | - | -- | -- | -- | -- | 2.33 | -- | 1.50 | -- | -- | 2.33 | -- | -- | - |

[^3]Appendix Table C-2. Data and expansion factors used to estimate the number of coded-wire tagged fall chinook salmon that migrated upstream from River Mile 4.3, 1987.

| CHT expansion components | Length stratum (fork length, mim) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Males |  |  |  | Females |  |  |  |
|  | 400-599 | 600-799 | 800-999 | 1,000-1,199 | 400-599 | 600-799 | 800-999 | 1,000-1,199 |
| Population estimate ( $N$ ) | 58 | 555 | 936 | 233 | 0 | 31 | 636 | 409 |
| Fish sampled ( $T$ ) | 22 | 246 | 483 | 140 | 0 | 8 | 318 | 271 |
| Ad-clips observed (A). | 1 | 12 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 9 |
| Snouts recovered | 1 | 12 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 9 |
| Snouts processed (S) | 1 | 12 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 9 |
| Snouts with CWTS (H) | 1 | 12 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 8 |
| Snouts without CWTs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| CWTs decoded (D) | 1 | 12 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 8 |
| CWT expansion factor (E) | 2.64 | 2.26 | 1.94 | $4 \quad 1.66$ | - | -- | 2.00 | 1.51 |

## APPENDIX D

Estimates of recoveries of Coded-wire Tagged Fall Chinook salmon Released from Salmon River Fish Hatchery Summarized by Brood Year



Post Office Box 59
Portland, Oregon 97207


[^0]:    ${ }^{\text {a }}$ River mile 1.8-10.3, 15 August-22 November.
    b Chinook salmon: Oncorhynchus tshawytscha, Coho salmon: 0. kisutch, Chum salmon: 0. keta, Steelhead: 0. mykiss and Cutthroat trout: 0. clarkii.
    c Jacks are fish < 610 mm fork length (except Cutthroat).

[^1]:    ${ }^{\mathrm{a}}$ Weekend only.
    b Includes estimates from the recreational fishery in the area upstream from the hatchery (RM 4.9 to 10.3).
    c Not including 10 Aug-16 Aug and 16 Nov-22 Nov.

[^2]:    

[^3]:    a Monday through Sunday.
    b Includes voluntary angler recoveries.

