

Annual Report 1998

**Project No. 89-065
Annual Coded Wire Program
Missing Production Groups**

**By
Stephen M. Pastor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Columbia River Fisheries Program Office
9317 Highway 99, Suite I
Vancouver, Washington 98665**

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INTRODUCTION

In 1989 the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) began funding the evaluation of production groups of juvenile anadromous fish not being coded-wire tagged for other programs. These groups were the "Missing Production Groups". Production fish released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) without representative coded-wire tags during the 1980s are indicated as blank spaces on the survival graphs in this report.

The objectives of the "Missing Production Groups" program are:

- to estimate the total survival of each production group,
- to estimate the contribution of each production group to various fisheries, and
- to prepare an annual report for all USFWS hatcheries in the Columbia River basin.

Coded-wire tag recovery information will be used to evaluate the relative success of individual brood stocks. This information can also be used by salmon harvest managers to develop plans to allow the harvest of excess hatchery fish while protecting threatened, endangered, or other stocks of concern.

In order to meet these objectives, a minimum of one marked group of fish is necessary for each production release. The level of marking varies according to location, species, and age at release. In general, 50,000 fish are marked with a coded-wire tag (CWT) to represent each production release group at hatcheries below John Day Dam. More than 100,000 fish per group are usually marked at hatcheries above John Day Dam.

All fish release information, including marked/unmarked ratios, is reported to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). Fish recovered in the various fisheries or at the hatcheries are sampled to recover coded-wire tags. This recovery information is also reported to PSMFC.

METHODS

The Missing Production Groups Report assesses the survival and contribution to various fisheries of fish raised and released at production facilities. Release information used in this report is collected with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Columbia River (information) System (CRiS). Information prior to the Columbia River basin wide implementation of CRiS, and from USFWS hatcheries in Idaho, is obtained from the interagency StreamNet database.

Recovery information is obtained from the PSMFC Regional Mark Information Center coded-wire tag database. This database is continuously being updated by the contributing agencies. These updates are then reflected in this report. Tag lists are created for each release year, and reports are generated using the PSMFC TS1 format. The TS1 report contains both the observed number of recoveries, and the estimate of recoveries based on the sampling rate.

These reports are downloaded in ASCII format. A series of dBASE V programs transforms these ASCII files into a single dbf file.

A Stock Assessment Reference Document is prepared for each hatchery, brood, and species that had coded-wire tags. Because many fish were released without representative coded-wire tags before the Missing Production Groups program began, a single Production Expansion Factor (PEF - the total number of fish released divided by the total number of tagged fish released) is calculated for each hatchery, brood year, species, and stage of fish released at the hatchery. This PEF is used to expand estimated recovery information for unmarked fish released, and to determine a general picture of the overall contribution and survival rates for each facility.

The Stock Assessment Reference Document printout lists the following information for each brood year, species, hatchery, and stage released at the hatchery: release information, the total number of observed recoveries, where recoveries occurred, the number of expanded recoveries from the PSMFC TS1 report, and the number of recoveries expanded to include unmarked fish released, and a summary of where fish were recovered.

“Residualized” fish, or mini-jacks from yearling releases, are not included in the estimates of survival. An inconsistency between Columbia River contribution and the Columbia River portion of “Contribution by Area” has been eliminated.

“Total Survival” and “Contribution by Fishery” graphs are prepared with a combination of dBASE programs and spreadsheets “Fishery” and “Survive”.

RESULTS

In calendar year 1998 the USFWS Columbia River Fisheries Program Office marked 693,431 fish as "Missing Production Groups" (Table 1). Over 356 snouts with "Missing Production Groups" coded-wire tags were recovered at USFWS hatcheries in 1998, and processed at USFWS fisheries offices.

A brief description of the estimated survival and contribution for each species raised and released at national fish hatcheries follows. Graphs for each hatchery and species were prepared, and summaries of release and recovery information are also included in this report.

Abernathy Salmon Culture Technology Center

Abernathy Salmon Culture Technology Center (SCTC) is located 14 miles west of Longview, Washington, on Abernathy Creek, approximately three miles upstream from its confluence with the Columbia River at an altitude of 175 feet above sea level. Abernathy SCTC began operations in 1959. From 1980 through the 1990s, lower river tule fall chinook were the only species reared on a production basis at Abernathy.

Coded-wire tags were released in fish from brood years 1980 and 1981. Current estimated survival rates are 1.1511% and 0.2084%. Changes in reporting by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (CDFO) were noted in the 1997 report. Nevertheless, the CDFO ocean troll fishery took most of these fish.

There were no releases of marked fish for brood years 1982 to 1988.

Marking fish with coded-wire tags was resumed for brood year 1989 under the Missing Production Group program. Brood year 1989 contributed mainly to troll and sport fisheries in Washington (1,628) and British Columbia (977). Overall survival was 0.1836% or 3,296 fish.

Fish from brood year 1990 had a low survival rate of 0.0773%. An estimated 102 fish were taken in the ocean off Washington, and 136 in the Columbia River estuary sport fishery. An additional 645 fish were estimated to have been recovered in Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) spawning ground surveys.

Additional recoveries have raised the total survival for brood year 1991 to 0.2260%. An estimated 1,156 fish were recovered in spawning ground surveys, nearly twice the number returning to Abernathy. Ocean harvest was 1,027 fish and 1,470 fish were harvested in the Columbia River.

Total survival for brood year 1992 is 0.2435%, about the same as brood year 1991. Spawning ground surveys by WDFW account for 758 fish. Hatcheries other than Abernathy recovered an additional 444 fish from the Columbia River contribution of 1,256. Of the 477 fish harvested in the ocean, 388 were in British Columbia.

Carson National Fish Hatchery

Carson National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is located 13 miles northwest of Carson, Washington, at the confluence of the Wind River and Tye Springs (River Mile 18), at 1,180 feet above sea level. Carson NFH began operation in 1938 by rearing and releasing fall chinook salmon and trout. In 1956, the hatchery was remodeled under the Mitchell Act. In the 1960s Carson raised steelhead, brook trout, rainbow trout, kokanee, and coho. Construction of a fish ladder at Shipherd Falls (River Mile 2.1) in 1955 made it possible for spring chinook to pass upstream to the hatchery. Trapping of spring chinook at Bonneville Dam began in 1955, after Washington shore trapping facilities were completed, and continued through 1961. Current production involves adult collection, egg incubation and rearing of spring chinook salmon.

Brood year 1982 to 1985 spring chinook from Carson were marked with coded-wire tags for a density study. The average total survival of these brood years is 0.22%. The greatest number of off station recoveries were in the freshwater sport fishery. There were an estimated 20 recoveries of brood year 1982 and 1983 fish in Canadian waters. An estimated 43 recoveries of brood year 1985 fish occurred in ocean fisheries in Alaska, Canada, and Washington.

There are now an additional 31 brood year 1988 recoveries listed by WDFW in 1993. Because of a study at Carson, WDFW sampled returning adults and reported recoveries. The new overall survival rate for Carson brood year 1988 is 0.4684%. The majority of contribution to fisheries occurred in Columbia River freshwater sport and was expanded to 5,303. Recoveries in the treaty ceremonial fisheries were expanded to 1,023.

Brood year 1989 was also part of the otolith study conducted by WDFW. Additional recoveries at Carson and reported by WDFW raise total survival to 0.2036%. The majority of fish from this brood year (2,498) was taken in the freshwater sport fishery reported by WDFW. Two observed recoveries in the Washington ocean troll fishery were expanded to a total of 12 fish caught.

Additional reporting by WDFW for recoveries at Carson NFH increase the survival rate for brood year 1990 to 0.0346%, or a total of 802 fish from a release of over 2 million.

WDFW reported an additional 4 recoveries for 1994, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) added 2 recoveries in the Columbia River gillnet fishery, giving brood year 1991 a survival of 0.0207%, now less than brood year 1990. The largest taking was the treaty ceremonial harvest of 70 fish. Two fish were recovered in spawning ground surveys.

Survival for brood year 1992 is 0.4101%, the highest since brood year 1988. WDFW reported 1996 recoveries at Carson as part of the aforementioned otolith study. An unusual 82 fish were harvested in the California ocean troll fishery.

Dworshak National Fish Hatchery

Dworshak NFH is located at the confluence of the North Fork Clearwater River and the main stem Clearwater River about three miles west of Orofino, Idaho, at 1,000 feet above sea level. Dworshak NFH first began operations in 1969 rearing summer steelhead and resident trout. The facility was expanded in 1982 under the Lower Snake River Compensation Program (LSRCP) to rear spring chinook salmon. The hatchery is now used to produce spring chinook and summer steelhead.

Spring Chinook

Total recoveries for brood year 1985 were 0.0201%, the first release of 100% Rapid River stock. The brood year 1986 yearling release resulted in an estimated 2,595 fish, or 0.2306%.

Twelve different coded-wire tag groups were released with brood year 1987. Only three of them were in yearling fish released at the hatchery. Coded-wire tag release information was obtained from the StreamNet Distributed System. Total survival of 0.0041% is lower than the previous estimate due to the elimination of double reporting and residualized fish. The ODFW reported freshwater sport harvest took an estimated 13 fish.

Overall survival for brood year 1988 is now 0.0605%. This change is the result of changes in USFWS hatchery recovery numbers for 1992 and 1993, Idaho changes for 1990, and both treaty ceremonial and treaty subsistence reported by USFWS. This brood year contributed mainly to the treaty ceremonial fishery in the Columbia River.

Yearlings from brood year 1989 survived only half as well as brood year 1988. A total of 70 fish were harvested in the Columbia basin, and 3 were recovered at WDFW hatcheries. Fifty-two fish were taken in the treaty ceremonial fishery. With the elimination of two age-2 mini-jack recoveries at the hatchery, overall survival is 0.0353%. Quinault Department of Natural Resources reports recovery of an age-8 fish in 1997 in their coastal gillnet fishery. This age-8 recovery has not been added to total recoveries.

Coded-wire tag information for brood year 1990 was obtained from the StreamNet Distributed System. Total estimated survival for this brood year was 0.0027%, or 12 fish from a release of almost 960,000, lowest of the four years examined so far. The treaty ceremonial fishery reported by ODFW took two fish from this brood year. This estimate of survival is reduced from last year since the recovery of 17 age-2 fish is no longer included.

Brood year 1991 has an estimated overall survival rate of .0021%, the lowest of tagged brood years in this report. Two USFWS hatchery recoveries were added since last year.

Summer Steelhead

Total survivals for brood years 1980, 1981, and 1982 were 2.9305%, 1.2033%, and 0.3813% respectively. Although the Stock Assessment printout shows 0 Escapement to NFH, this results from the fact that Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) reported hatchery recoveries at Dworshak NFH in the early 1980s.

Tagged fish from brood year 1983 (release year 1984 with CWTs 051335, 102516, and 102517) are listed as "Off-site direct hatchery release" in the StreamNet database.

There is no StreamNet record of coded-wire tagged fish having been released on site in brood year 1983 or 1984.

Survival for brood year 1985 has stabilized at 1.1867%. Over 5,400 fish were taken in the Columbia River gillnet fishery, and over 4,100 were taken in the freshwater sport fishery reported by Idaho.

Brood year 1986 has an overall recovery rate of 1.9046%. This brood year contributed mainly to the freshwater sport fishery in Idaho. Many of these steelhead were also recovered in the Columbia River gillnet fishery.

Total survival rate for brood year 1987 stands at 0.9099%. Thirty-five fish were taken off British Columbia, but the great majority of fish (7,199) were taken in the Columbia River basin. The majority of "Columbia River" harvest was in the ODFW reported gillnet fishery and the IDFG reported freshwater sport fishery.

Brood year 1988 summer steelhead yielded 465 observed recoveries with an overall estimated survival rate of 0.4780%. The vast majority of fish were taken in the Columbia River gillnet fishery (2,276), followed by the Columbia River sport fishery (504). An estimated contribution of 14 age-2 squid gillnet by-catch and foreign research vessel National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reported recoveries does not show up on the Ocean Contribution section of the Stock Assessment Reference Document. No freshwater sport recoveries have been reported by IDFG.

Overall survival for brood year 1989 is the same as last year at 0.9315%. Most fish were taken in the Columbia River gillnet fishery (4,434). A total of 1,377 fish was taken in the various freshwater and estuary sport fisheries. Forty-seven fish were taken off the coast of British Columbia. No freshwater sport recoveries have been reported by IDFG.

Brood year 1990 release data were obtained from the StreamNet database. Except for one different date, 90 additional fish, and a significant difference in the total weight of fish released, StreamNet records are similar to those originally reported for releases at the hatchery. With the addition of one age-6 recovery reported by ODFW, the total survival rate for brood year 1990 was estimated at 0.4629% or 5,521 fish. Most of the harvested fish were

taken in the Columbia River gillnet fishery (2,575). Twenty-five fish were also taken in the Oregon ocean sport fishery. No freshwater sport recoveries have been reported by IDFG.

Total survival of 0.2242% places brood 1991 at the bottom of survival rates for Dworshak steelhead, even with the addition of 9 USFWS hatchery recoveries. A total of 2,669 fish survived from this brood year. Seventy-five fish were harvested in the Quinault reported coastal gillnet fishery. ODFW reports Columbia River gillnet and sport harvest of 984 and 149 fish, and another 328 fish as freshwater sport. Once again there are no recoveries reported by Idaho.

Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery

Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery is located about seven miles from Estacada, Oregon, on Eagle Creek, approximately ten miles above its confluence with the Clackamas River at an elevation of 950 feet. The hatchery was authorized by the Mitchell Act of 1938 (52 Stat. 345), as amended in 1946. The purpose of the Mitchell Act is to provide for the “conservation of the fishery resources of the Columbia River”.¹ The hatchery was constructed in 1956, and is currently operated as part of the Columbia River Fishery Development Program (CRFDP). Although Eagle Creek NFH has raised fall and spring chinook in past years, production is now limited to coho and winter steelhead.

Coho

Coded-wire tags were used in a multiple year density study including brood years 1979, 1980 and 1981. Brood year 1980 survival rate was 1.3546%. The CDFO ocean sport expanded number of age-3 fish recovered from brood year 1981 increased from four to six, increasing that brood year survival rate to 1.0413%. Oregon ocean fisheries took nearly four times more fish than Washington ocean fisheries in brood year 1980. Brood year 1981 had an almost even split between the two fisheries.

No coded-wire tags were released in brood years 1982-1987.

The 1989 brood year coho survival rate was 0.9446%, about one quarter of the very high 4.181% survival rate of brood year 1988 coho. Over 3,800 of the coho from this brood year were caught off the Oregon coast in the sport and commercial fisheries. Eighteen hundred were harvested in the ocean off Washington, and 200 off California. Over 200 fish were taken in British Columbia. Eight hundred twenty were also harvested in the Columbia River.

Brood year 1990 coho has a total of 31 observed recoveries and an overall survival rate of 0.1228%. Fewer than 600 fish were taken in the ocean, and 310 in the Columbia River. Five hundred of the ocean recoveries were reported by WDFW. The remaining 96 were split evenly between Oregon and California. Coded-wire tagged returns to the hatchery were estimated to be less than the ocean harvest of this brood year.

Total survival rate for brood year 1991 coho is now estimated to be 0.3402%, since WDFW has reported one additional ocean sport recovery. Only 137 fish were harvested in the ocean (91 by British Columbia and 46 by Washington), and 205 in the Columbia River. Escapement to the hatchery was about 3,300 fish. Although this brood year did better than the 1990 fish, it was much less successful than 1980, 1981, 1988 or 1989.

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Brood year 1992 survival rate is estimated at 0.4758%, an improvement over the previous two broods, but still below average for broods in the 1980s. Escapement to the hatchery made up the largest segment of fish recovered, as was also the case for brood year 1991. Washington ocean fisheries took 750 fish and Oregon ocean fisheries harvested 277 fish. An additional 197 fish were taken in the Columbia River.

There are now 6 recoveries in the Columbia River for brood year 1993, but only 339 fish were recovered in the ocean by British Columbia and Washington. Total survival was lower than the previous two brood years at 0.2228%.

Total survival for brood year 1994 was even lower at 0.1758%. WDFW reported ocean recoveries result in an ocean harvest of 263 fish, with 66 fish harvested in the Columbia River estuary sport fishery.

With relatively low survival rates and limited off station recoveries since brood year 1990, return to the hatchery has increased to over half of total recoveries.

Winter Steelhead

A six year old brood year 1989 fish recovered at the hatchery increased the total estimated survival rate from coded-wire tag recoveries to 0.7713%. An estimated eight fish from brood year 1989 winter steelhead were recovered in the ODFW freshwater sport fishery. This number is based on voluntary returns from sportsmen, and probably under represents the true sport fishery impact in the Clackamas River and in Eagle Creek.

There was one observed off station recovery of brood year 1990 fish. This yields a total estimated harvest of three fish off station, and a total survival of 0.2951%. However, the "1994 Accomplishment Report for Clackamas River Fisheries Working Group" reports that an estimated 21 AdLV and 55 AdLV fish were caught in the Clackamas River Section, December 1993-April 1994. ODFW also reports that 16 fish were caught in Eagle Creek during the same period. Since steelhead returning to Eagle Creek are usually either age-3 or age-4, these fish were most likely from brood year 1990 or 1991.

With the elimination of one age-2 fish, the total of brood year 1991 fish taken in the ODFW reported freshwater sport fishery is reduced to 25. Although there may have been additional recoveries (see the "1994 Accomplishment Report for Clackamas River Fisheries Working Group"), coded-wire tag recoveries yield a total estimated survival rate of 0.1346%.

The total survival for the 1992 brood year was 0.4759% with an estimated 89 recoveries in the Oregon freshwater sport fishery.

Brood year 1993 has the lowest recovery rate (0.0934%) in the five years that steelhead have been marked at Eagle Creek. There is only one reported off station recovery.

Entiat National Fish Hatchery

Entiat NFH is located on the Entiat River, east of Entiat, Washington. Elevation is 980 feet above sea level. Construction began in 1940 under authorization of the Mitchell Act and operations began a year later. Present production at the hatchery consists of adult collection, egg incubation, and rearing of spring chinook salmon.

Beginning with brood year 1988, yearling spring chinook at Entiat were coded-wire tagged under the Missing Production Group program. Expanded off station recoveries include 57 in the treaty ceremonial fishery and 6 in the Columbia River sport fishery. Expanding CWT recoveries for brood year 1988 gave an estimated survival of 0.1023%. Eggs from Winthrop NFH were raised and released at Entiat as part of this brood year.

There was a total of 56 observed recoveries of the 111,207 tagged fish released with brood year 1989. Expansion of these recoveries yields an overall survival rate of 0.0503%. Seven fish were taken in the Columbia River sport fishery. Eggs from Leavenworth NFH were raised and released at Entiat as part of this brood year.

There were only four observed recoveries from the 95,682 tagged fish released with brood year 1990. Total estimated survival for this brood year was 0.0041%. All recoveries were at the hatchery.

Brood year 1991 was more successful than the previous brood year with a total survival rate of 0.0260%. Ten fish were taken in the Columbia River treaty ceremonial fishery. All observed recoveries were of age-4 fish.

A total recovery rate of 0.0407% puts brood year 1992 in the middle of yearling releases among the five years of coded-wire tagging at Entiat. The freshwater fish trap category accounts for most of the off station recoveries.

Kooskia National Fish Hatchery

Kooskia NFH is situated along Clear Creek, just upstream of the confluence with the Middle Fork Clearwater River, approximately 75 miles southeast of Lewiston, Idaho, at an altitude of 1,295 feet. The hatchery was authorized in 1961, first operated in 1969, and is currently used for adult collection and rearing of spring chinook salmon.

Only two broods during the 1980s received tag codes at Kooskia. An age-0 release of brood year 1980 fish contained an IDFG tag code. Fish raised at Kooskia were released at Dworshak NFH with an IDFG tag code. Fish from Hagerman NFH were released at Kooskia in 1983.

Brood year 1988 fish at Kooskia were the first fish to be marked under the Missing Production Group program. Total survival for brood year 1988 was 1,080 fish, or 0.2675%.

Treaty ceremonial fishing took most of the fish harvested off station (155). Eighteen fish were also taken in the ODFW test fishery net.

No tagged fish were released with brood year 1989.

An estimated 77 fish were recovered from brood year 1990, resulting in a survival rate of 0.0106%. Eleven of those fish were taken in the Columbia River sport fishery in 1994.

Total fish released for Kooskia NFH brood year 1991 was 343,437, including coded-wire tag 052925 with 60,585 fish. PSMFC records show 50,585 fish released with this tag code. Total recoveries for this brood year consist of a jack and an adult recovered at a national fish hatchery for a survival of 0.0012%.

Fish traps and non-USFWS hatcheries reported the majority of off station recoveries for brood year 1992. An estimated 4 fish were taken in the treaty ceremonial fishery. With 86 recoveries reported by USFWS, total estimated survival rate is 0.0314%, better than the previous two brood years.

Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery

Leavenworth NFH is located about four miles northeast of Leavenworth, Washington, along Icicle Creek, a tributary to the Wenatchee River. Elevation is 1,155 feet. The hatchery was originally authorized in 1937 by the Grand Coulee Fish Maintenance Project and was re-authorized in 1938 by the Mitchell Act. The facility began operations in 1942 and is currently used for producing spring chinook salmon.

Fish from brood year 1985 were released at Leavenworth with two different tag codes. Fish with those same tag codes were also inadvertently released in the Yakima River, and are therefore not included in this report.

Fish from brood year 1986 were harvested mainly in the freshwater sport (757) and treaty ceremonial fisheries (402). One recovery from the ODFW treaty ceremonial fishery is no longer in the PSMFC database. Total estimated survival is estimated at 0.1174%.

Brood year 1987 spring chinook salmon released as yearlings have an estimated total survival of 0.2785%. Off station recoveries were mainly in the freshwater sport fishery and treaty ceremonial fishery. Nearly 3,000 fish were taken in the Columbia River. One tag, which was expanded to 28 fish, was recovered in the British Columbia ocean troll fishery. The 1987 brood year spring chinook released as fingerlings survived at a rate of only 0.0030%. This release of 939,426 fish yielded a freshwater sport catch of 12 fish, and a hatchery escapement of 16 fish.

Brood year 1988 spring chinook fared quite a bit better than brood year 1987 with an estimated survival rate of 0.4751%. Most fish were taken in the freshwater sport fishery (3,469). In addition, ODFW reported a treaty ceremonial harvest of 1,315. Twenty-five fish were harvested in the WDFW reported treaty troll fishery. Fingerling releases from this brood year survived at an overall rate of only 0.0034%. There were only seven observed recoveries from a release of nearly 300,000 tagged fish.

An agency 63 tag code was released with brood year 1989 age-0 Leavenworth fish raised at Wells State Fish Hatchery (SFH) and returned to Leavenworth for further rearing. These fish survived at a rate of 0.0889%. Using the calculated PEF of 4.41, 13 fish were harvested in the British Columbia ocean troll fishery, 163 in the freshwater sport fishery, and 66 in the treaty ceremonial fishery. However, this PEF includes 400,000 fish released at one-third the size of the fish with the coded-wire tags.

Yearling fish from brood year 1989 survived at a rate of 0.1946%, more than twice the rate for fish released at age-0. WDFW reported an additional five estimated freshwater sport recoveries since last year, and an additional age-6 fish was recovered at Leavenworth NFH. The great majority of off station recoveries occurred in the Columbia River sport fishery (1,585). An additional 360 fish were taken in the treaty ceremonial fishery.

The estimated number of fish surviving from brood year 1990 yearlings was only 86 fish from a total release of over 2 million fish, a very low survival rate of 0.0038%. These numbers are down from last year due to the elimination of age-2 recoveries. Treaty ceremonial harvest of this brood year is estimated to have been only 16 fish. Age-0 fish released from this brood year had no representative coded-wire tag.

Survival of brood year 1991 was a five fold improvement over 1990 at 0.0236% with an estimated total of 414 fish. Forty-five age-4 fish were taken in the ODFW reported treaty ceremonial fishery. Age-0 fish released from this brood year had no representative coded-wire tag.

Survival was up again with a 0.0569% rate for brood year 1992. There were both treaty ceremonial (19) and Columbia River gillnet harvest of adults.

Summer steelhead at Leavenworth have never been marked with coded-wire tags.

Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery

Little White Salmon NFH is located on the Little White Salmon River, 12 miles east of Stevenson, Washington, at an elevation of 90 feet. The hatchery began operations in 1898 and was remodeled and expanded in 1958. Now operating as part of the Columbia River Fisheries Development Program (CRFDP), hatchery production consists of rearing upriver bright fall chinook and spring chinook salmon. Coho are raised at Willard NFH, which is administered by Little White Salmon. Willard is listed separately in this document.

Spring Chinook

Both age-0 and yearling spring chinook have been released from the hatchery. Brood years 1982 through 1984 were coded-wire tagged to evaluate age-0 and yearling releases. Average survival for age-0 fish was 0.11%, compared with an average survival of 0.39% for yearling releases. Columbia River gillnets took a greater proportion of age-0 fish than yearlings (9.7% vs. 3.2%) for these three broods. Release of coded-wire tagged age-0 fish was resumed with brood year 1991.

Marking of spring chinook was resumed for brood year 1988 under the Missing Production Group program. Brood year 1988 fish released at age-0 were not marked. The overall survival rate for yearling fish from this brood year was 1.0458%. Nearly 2,400 yearling release fish were harvested in the Columbia River, with over 1,500 in the WDFW reported freshwater sport fishery alone. Another 731 fish were taken in the treaty ceremonial fishery.

Brood year 1989 shows a total survival of 2,272 fish, or 0.2235%, down slightly from last year with the elimination of an age-2 recovery. Nearly 1,200 fish were taken in the freshwater sport fishery, and 85 in the treaty ceremonial fishery. Age-0 fish were released from this brood year, but were not coded-wire tagged.

Six recoveries from 1994 are no longer in the dataset. These new records agree with records in the CRiS database. The new brood year 1990 survival rate for brood year 1989 fish is 0.0155%. There were no reported off station recoveries. The coded-wire tagged fish from this brood year were released from the Willard NFH facility, a sub-station located upstream from Little White Salmon NFH. Over 800,000 untagged, unmarked fish were released at Little White Salmon NFH. No age-0 fish were released from this brood year.

Only 208 fish survived out of 809,079 yearling fish released from brood year 1991 (0.0257%). There were only 7 recoveries, identical to brood year 1990. There were no recoveries from 94,295 tagged fish released at age-0.

Brood year 1992 had a much improved survival rate of 0.3013% and an estimated total survival of 2,997 fish. There were recoveries in the test net fishery (20) and treaty ceremonial fishery (81).

Upriver Bright Fall Chinook

Brood year 1983 through 1985 upriver brights were marked for both a normal age-0 release and an extended rearing release. Average percent survival for the fingerling release was 1.1%, compared to the survival of 0.38% for the extended rearing fish. The extended rearing program strategy is no longer being used.

Brood year 1989 was the first upriver bright brood year to be marked under the Missing Production Group program. Fifty-eight observed recoveries were expanded to a total of 3,532 for an overall survival rate of 0.2456%. Most of the harvested fish were taken in the ocean (1,734), with 931 in Alaska, 578 in British Columbia and 225 in California. An additional 161 fish were harvested in the Columbia River gillnet fishery, and 642 were recovered in spawning ground surveys.

Current recovery information shows a 0.3282% recovery rate for brood year 1990, higher than that for brood year 1989. CDFO added one expanded recovery in the ocean sport fishery since last year. Little White Salmon upriver bright fall chinook appear to be the only group of fish in this report which had a higher rate of survival for brood year 1990 than brood year 1989. Unlike Spring Creek tule fall chinook, where fish were released in March, April, and May, these fish were released in June. These upriver brights are also recovered farther north than the Spring Creek tules. Alaska ocean troll and ocean sport took most of these brood year 1990 fish (2,164), followed by Canadian trollers and ocean sport fishers (1,764), and the Columbia River gillnet fishery (1,042). Columbia River gillnet and spawning ground surveys each account for 1,042 fish.

ODFW added 12 estimated recoveries for brood year 1991 since last year, increasing survival to 0.1801%, less than half the rate of the 1990 brood year. Alaskan troll (859) and British Columbian fishers (573) harvested fish in the ocean, and the Columbia River gillnet fishery took 917 fish.

The first estimate of survival for brood year 1992 is 0.3327% with a total survival of 6,212 fish. Alaska and British Columbia trollers took 747 and 118 fish respectively. Columbia River gillnets took 1,140 fish, and the river sport fishery accounted for 275.

Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery

Spring Creek NFH is located on the Columbia River at Underwood, Washington, about 30 miles upstream of Bonneville Dam. Elevation at the hatchery is 93 feet above sea level. The hatchery was constructed in 1900 and began operations a year later. Fish were trapped in the Big Salmon River from 1901 through the 1950s. Spring Creek NFH was remodeled in 1955 under the Mitchell Act, and redone again in 1970 under John Day mitigation. It currently produces tule fall chinook.

The survival rate for brood year 1984 was 0.0462%, and was 0.1294% for brood year 1985. Even with the low survival rate of these two brood years, thousands of fish were harvested in both the ocean and the Columbia River.

CDFO added three recoveries to their ocean sport catch increasing the survival for brood year 1986 to 0.4328%, 46,050 fish from a release of 10,640,406. Over 22,000 were harvested in the ocean and 14,288 were taken in the Columbia River gillnet fishery.

Brood year 1987 fall chinook were recovered primarily in commercial fisheries off the coasts of Canada and Washington, as well as in the Columbia River gillnet fishery. CFDO estimated mixed net and seine recoveries increased by 2 since last year, increasing total survival for the 1987 brood year to 0.3087%, or 27,326 fish from a release of 8,850,757.

Brood year 1988 fish were recovered primarily in the Columbia River gillnet fishery (23,195). They also contributed to the ocean fisheries in Washington (16,006), Canada (12,470), and Oregon (5,514). One additional age-4 recovery was reported by CDFO increasing overall survival to 0.5168%.

Fish from brood year 1989 fared slightly worse than brood year 1988 with an overall survival rate of 0.4573% or 46,793 fish. Additions by CDFO since last year have changed several numbers. The greatest number of recoveries was in the ocean off Washington (14,339), and in the Columbia River (11,646). The Columbia River gillnet fishery took the great majority of fish harvested in the Columbia River. British Columbia took 9,262 fish, and ocean harvest off Oregon totaled 3,141 fish.

New numbers for recoveries from brood year 1990 show an estimated total survival of 0.1468%, one of the lower survival rates since brood year 1980. Most of the harvest of these fish occurred in the ocean off Washington (5,908), followed by the Columbia River harvest of 5,420 fish, and the Canadian harvest of 4,314 fish.

Brood year 1991 now has a total survival rate of 0.1570%, only slightly better than brood year 1990. British Columbia ocean troll and ocean sport fisheries took the largest number of fish from this brood year at 8,548 fish. The Columbia River gill net fishery harvested 7,941 fish.

The initial estimate of brood year 1992 survival is 0.1638%, or 23,440 fish. The Columbia River gill net fishery harvested 10,508 fish, and 3,372 were taken in the ocean.

Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery

Warm Springs NFH is located on the Warm Springs River, approximately 14 miles north of Warm Springs, Oregon at 1,525 feet above sea level. The hatchery was authorized in 1966 and began operations in 1978. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon entered into an agreement with the USFWS to increase tribal fishing opportunities. Operations at the hatchery presently consist of adult collection, egg incubation and rearing of spring chinook salmon.

Warm Springs has a unique fall release strategy that involves releasing the same coded-wire tags in the fall and in the spring. Therefore fall release and spring release fish are combined in this report.

Brood years 1978 and 1979 had a total of 562 estimated non-hatchery freshwater recoveries listed in "Information Reports 89-4" by the Fish Division of ODFW, and currently PSMFC lists 455 estimated recoveries.

The 1987 brood year of spring chinook is the first group of fish coded-wire tagged since the late 1970s. Since then, every fish released from the hatchery has been marked. The 1987 brood year spring chinook had a 0.1526% survival and contributed mainly to the freshwater sport fishery on the Deschutes River.

Brood year 1988 survived at a rate of 0.1807%, slightly better than brood year 1987. These fish contributed primarily to the freshwater sport fishery in Oregon and the treaty fisheries in both the Columbia River and Deschutes River. Eleven recoveries of age-2 fish were eliminated from the report this year.

Total survival for brood year 1989 now stands at 205 fish, or 0.0191%. Five age-2 recoveries at the hatchery have been eliminated. Fifty-four fish were taken in the freshwater sport fishery, 9 in treaty subsistence, and 5 in treaty ceremonial.

Only an estimated 30 fish survived from a release of 659,507 from the 1990 brood year, a survival rate of 0.0045%. There were 26 recoveries at the hatchery and 4 in the Oregon freshwater sport fishery.

Brood year 1991 survived at a rate three times higher than brood year 1990, but still a low 0.0151% or only 84 fish. Treaty ceremonial and treaty subsistence took a total of nine fish.

There was a big jump in survival for brood year 1992. Over eight hundred fish were recovered to give a survival rate of 0.1584%, the highest since coded-wire tagging began with brood year 1987. Treaty fisheries harvested 21 fish, while the freshwater sport harvest was 112.

Willard National Fish Hatchery

Willard NFH is situated four miles upstream of Little White Salmon NFH on the Little White Salmon River at an altitude of 900 feet. Willard is part of the Little White Salmon NFH complex. Willard NFH was constructed in 1952 under authorization of the Mitchell Act and was originally planned as a fall chinook hatchery. The hatchery was switched to a spring chinook and coho facility because of cold water temperatures. Since the mid-1960s, the hatchery has been used primarily for coho production. Adult coho are trapped and spawned at Little White Salmon NFH.

Fish from brood year 1988 contributed mostly to ocean fisheries (27,996 fish) from British Columbia (1,473) to California (5,189). An additional 8,776 fish were harvested in the Columbia River. Fifty-five hundred of those were taken in the gillnet fishery, and 3,200 hundred in the estuary sport fishery. Total survival rate was estimated to be 1.6976%.

Brood year 1989 coho survived at a rate of 0.3247%. Total survival was estimated to be 8,355 fish from a release of 2,573,323. They contributed mainly in ocean sport and non-treaty troll fisheries of Oregon (3,126) and Washington (1,779).

Total survival for brood year 1990 was only 1,726 fish or 0.1100%. Fish were harvested primarily in sport fisheries off the coasts of Washington (799), Oregon (224) and California (64). One hundred twenty-eight fish were taken in the Washington non-treaty troll fishery. One hundred twenty-eight fish were taken in the Columbia River sport fishery.

Survival of brood year 1991 was even lower than 1990 with an overall survival of 0.0721%, or 2,209 fish from a release of over 3 million smolts. The only fish harvested from this brood year were 552 fish taken in the Columbia River, 491 in the gillnet fishery and 61 in the freshwater sport fishery.

There was some improvement in brood year 1992 with a survival rate of 0.1007%. Washington ocean sport fisheries took 240 fish, and Oregon ocean sport 120. The Columbia River gillnet fishery took an additional 161 fish for a total off station harvest of 521 fish from a release of nearly 2 million.

Brood year 1993 survival is in the same range as the previous three broods - 0.1218% with a contribution to the Washington sport charter fishery of 28 fish. Additional reporting by ODFW show 85 fish taken in the Columbia River sport harvest, and 14 at an ODFW hatchery. All other recoveries were at the hatchery.

The initial estimate of survival for brood year 1994 is 0.2379% for a total of 5,602 fish, most of which were adults returning to the hatchery.

Winthrop National Fish Hatchery

Winthrop NFH is situated along the Methow River, near the town of Winthrop, Washington. Elevation is 1,760 feet above sea level. Nine dams separate Winthrop from the Pacific Ocean. The hatchery was originally authorized by the Grand Coulee Fish Maintenance Project in 1937, and reauthorized by the Mitchell Act in 1938.

The facility began operations in 1942 by trapping adult sockeye, chinook, and steelhead at Rock Island Dam and transporting them to the hatchery. By 1951 the hatchery was rearing sockeye, chinook, steelhead, kokanee, coho and resident trout. Until 1996 the program had been simplified to spring chinook only. Coho and steelhead recently raised at Winthrop were not coded-wire tagged. Tagged summer chinook were released in 1996.

Spring chinook were coded-wire tagged beginning with brood year 1989. There were 16 observed recoveries from the 107,670 tagged fish released. These recoveries are expanded to a total of 225 fish for an overall survival rate of 0.0213%. An estimated 78 fish were recovered in the freshwater sport fishery, and an estimated 29 fish were recovered by WDFW hatcheries.

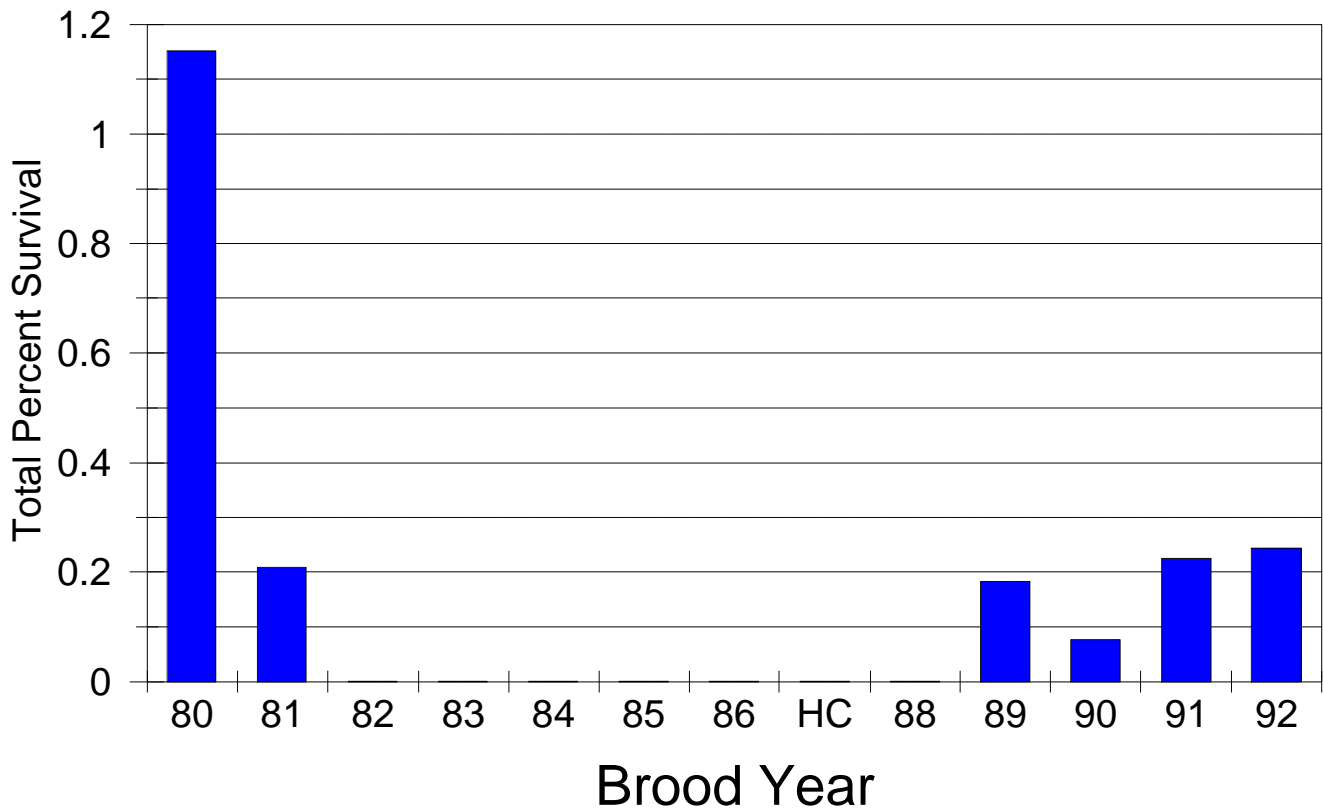
There is now one recovery for brood year 1990 Winthrop spring chinook on file with PSMFC. That fish was killed at a WDFW hatchery. Given a production expansion factor of 6.89, six additional unmarked fish were probably also killed. This gives an overall survival rate of 0.0011%. Over 90,000 tagged fish were released along with a total of 624,771 yearlings.

There are no brood year 1991 recoveries from the 189,187 tagged fish released

Brood year 1992 contributed 63 fish to a WDFW freshwater fish trap from the total estimated recovery of 79 fish, a survival rate of 0.0142%.

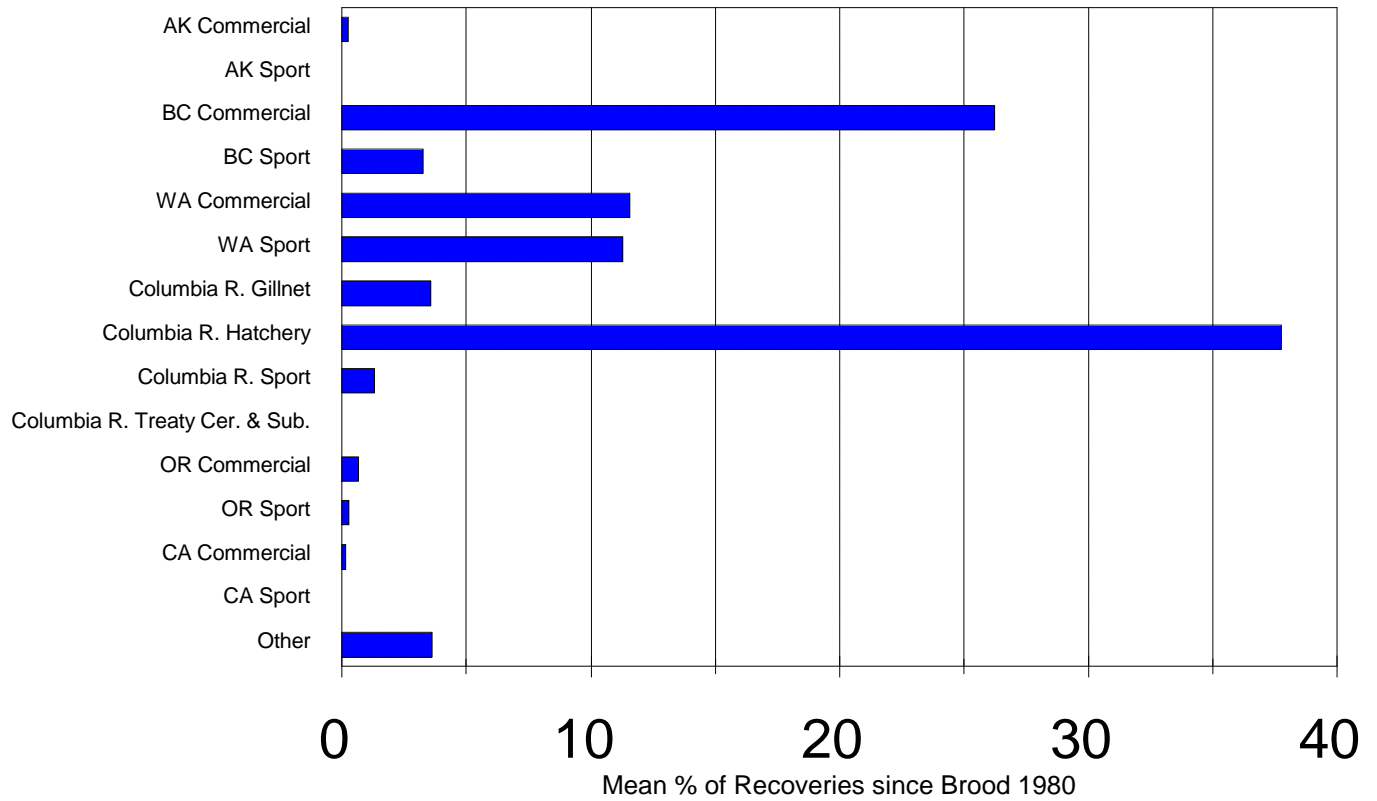
Abernathy SCTC

Tule Fall Chinook fingerlings



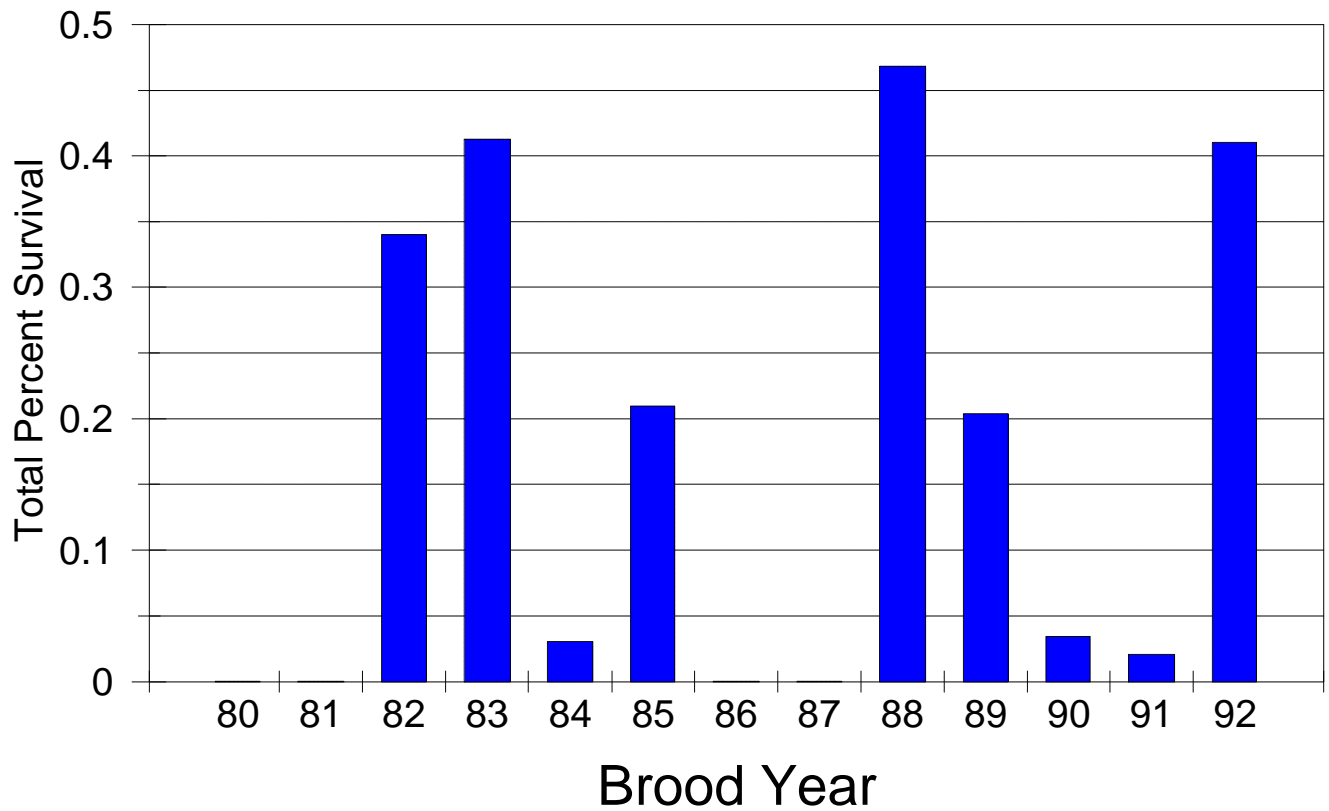
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Tule Fall Chinook fingerlings



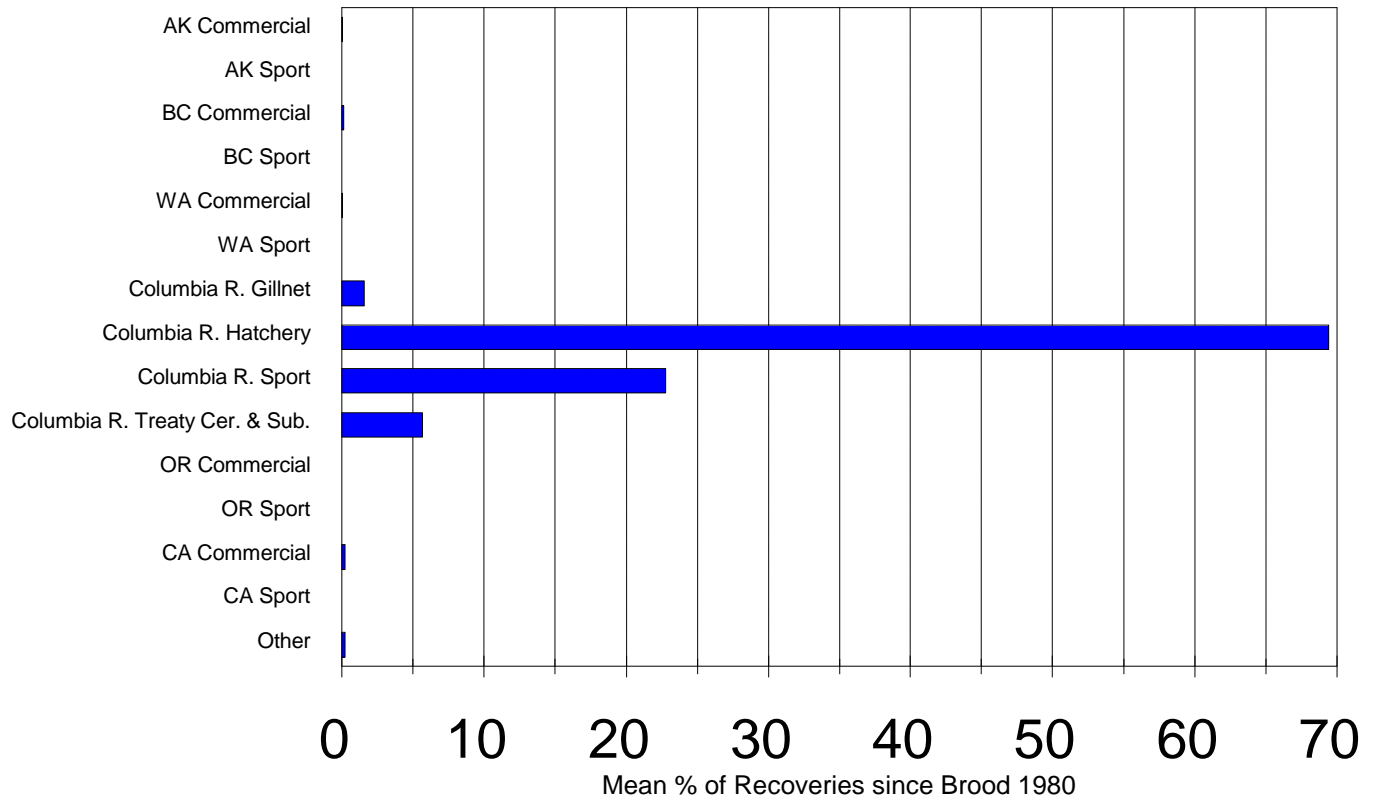
Carson NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings



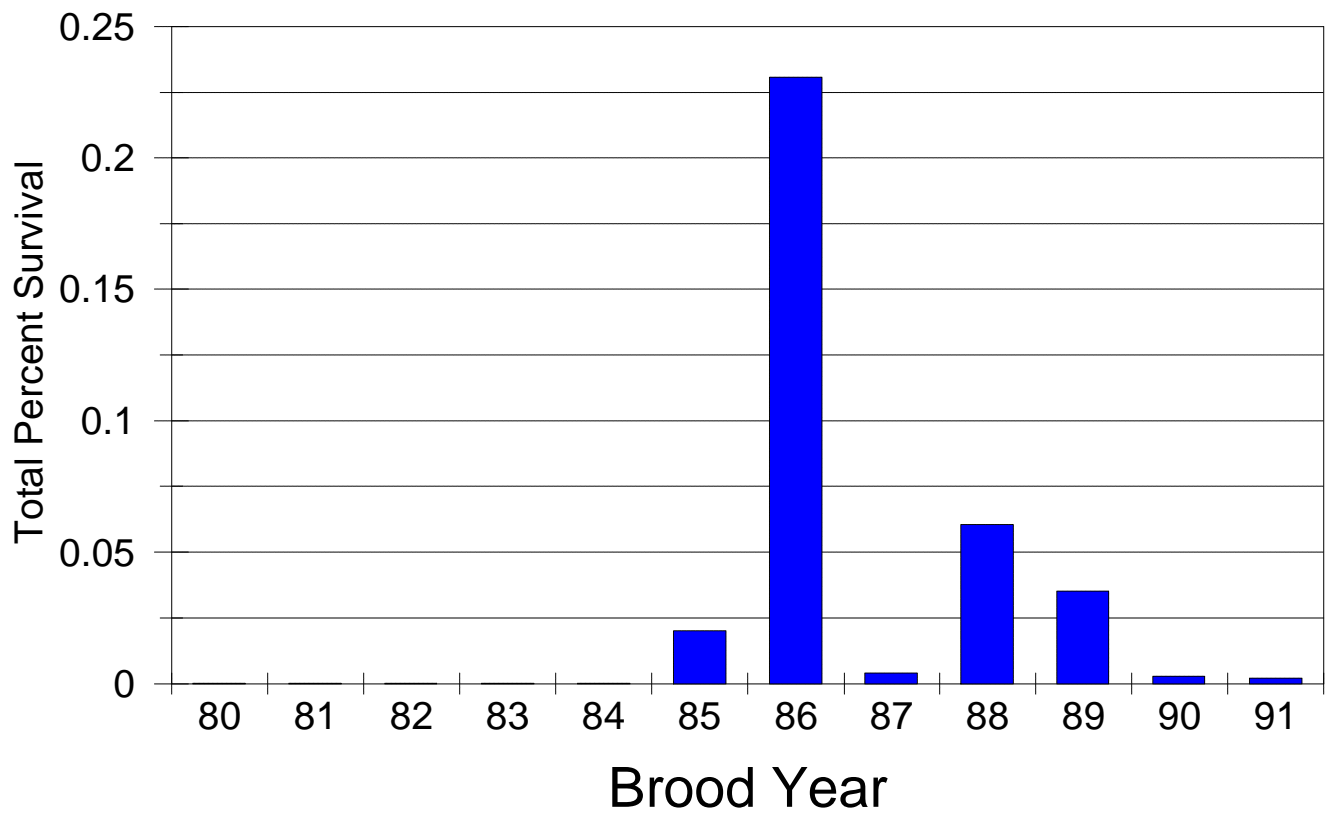
Carson NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings



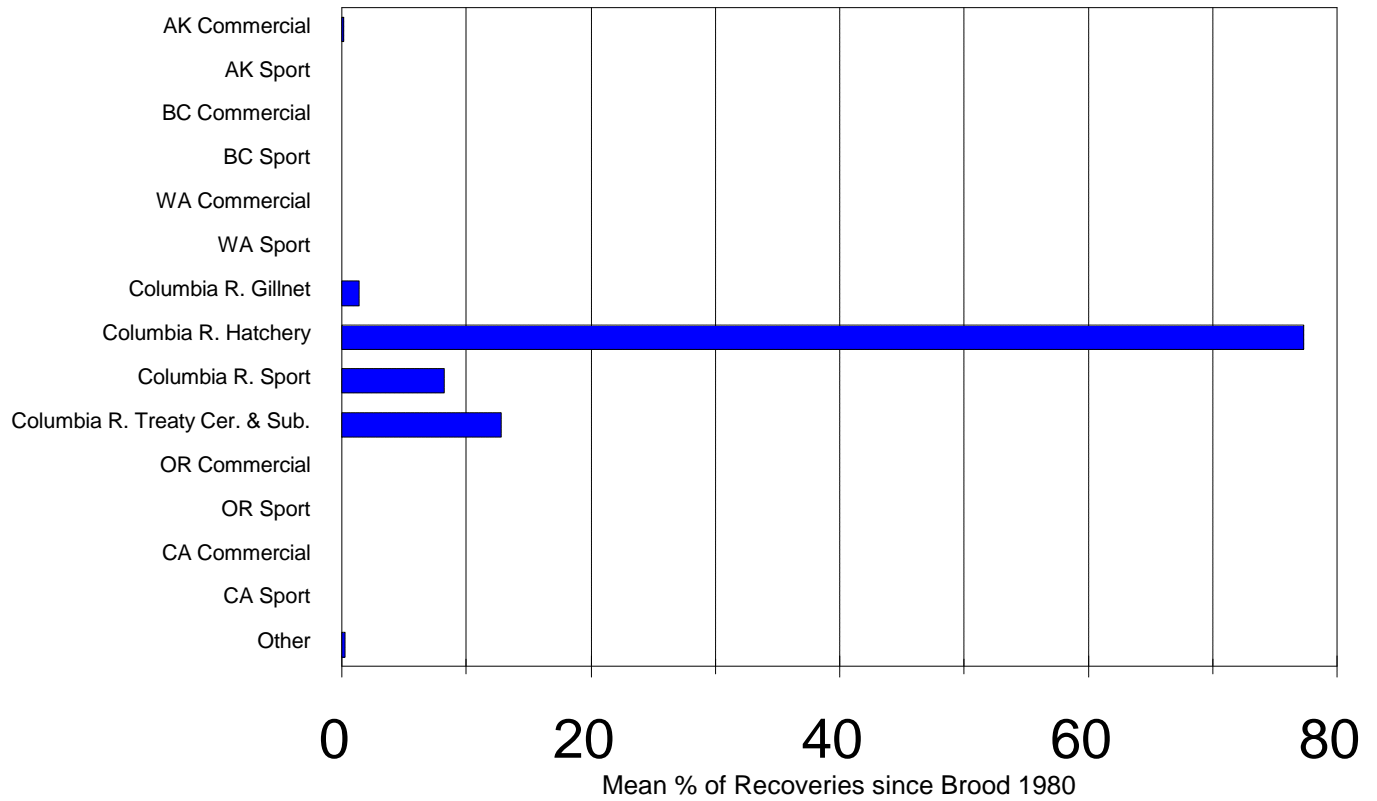
Dworshak NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings



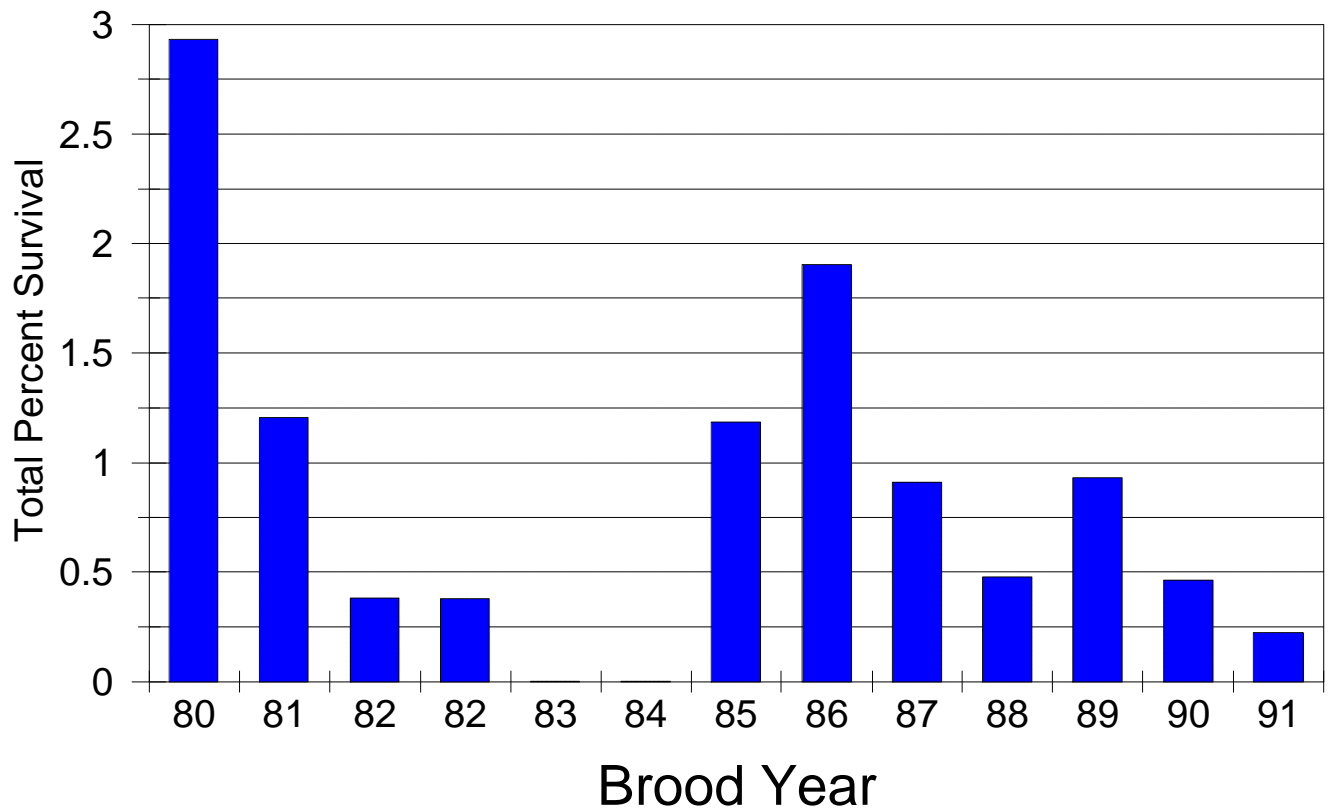
Dworshak NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings



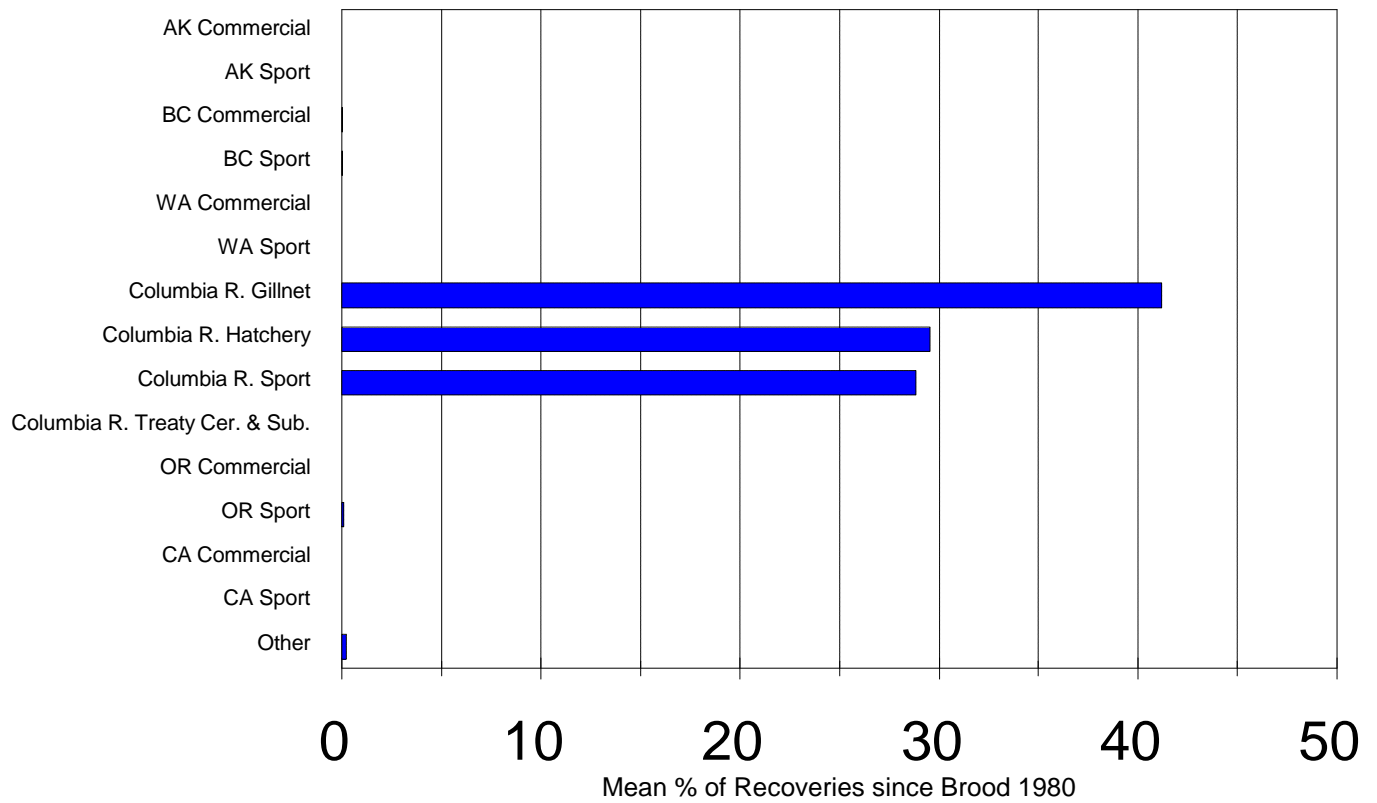
Dworshak NFH

Summer Steelhead yearlings



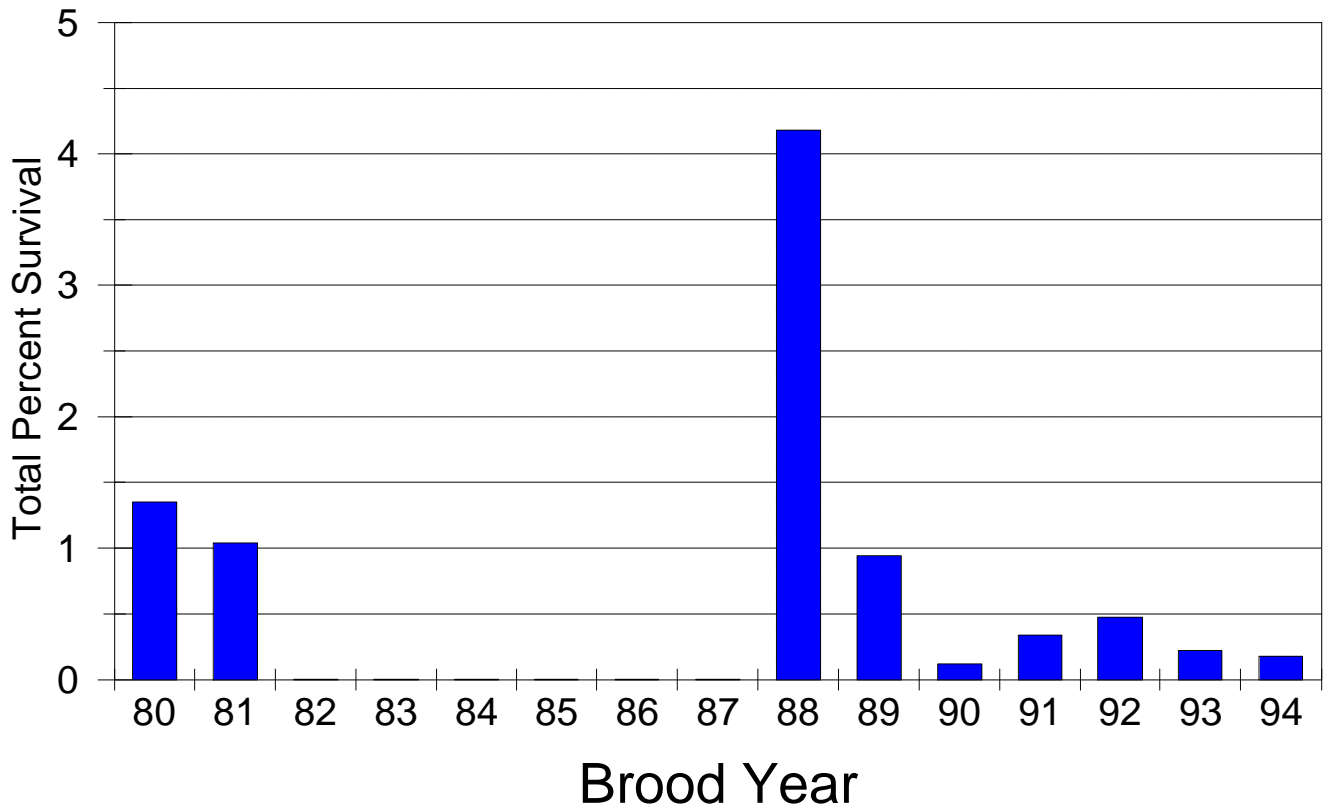
Dworshak NFH

Summer Steelhead yearlings

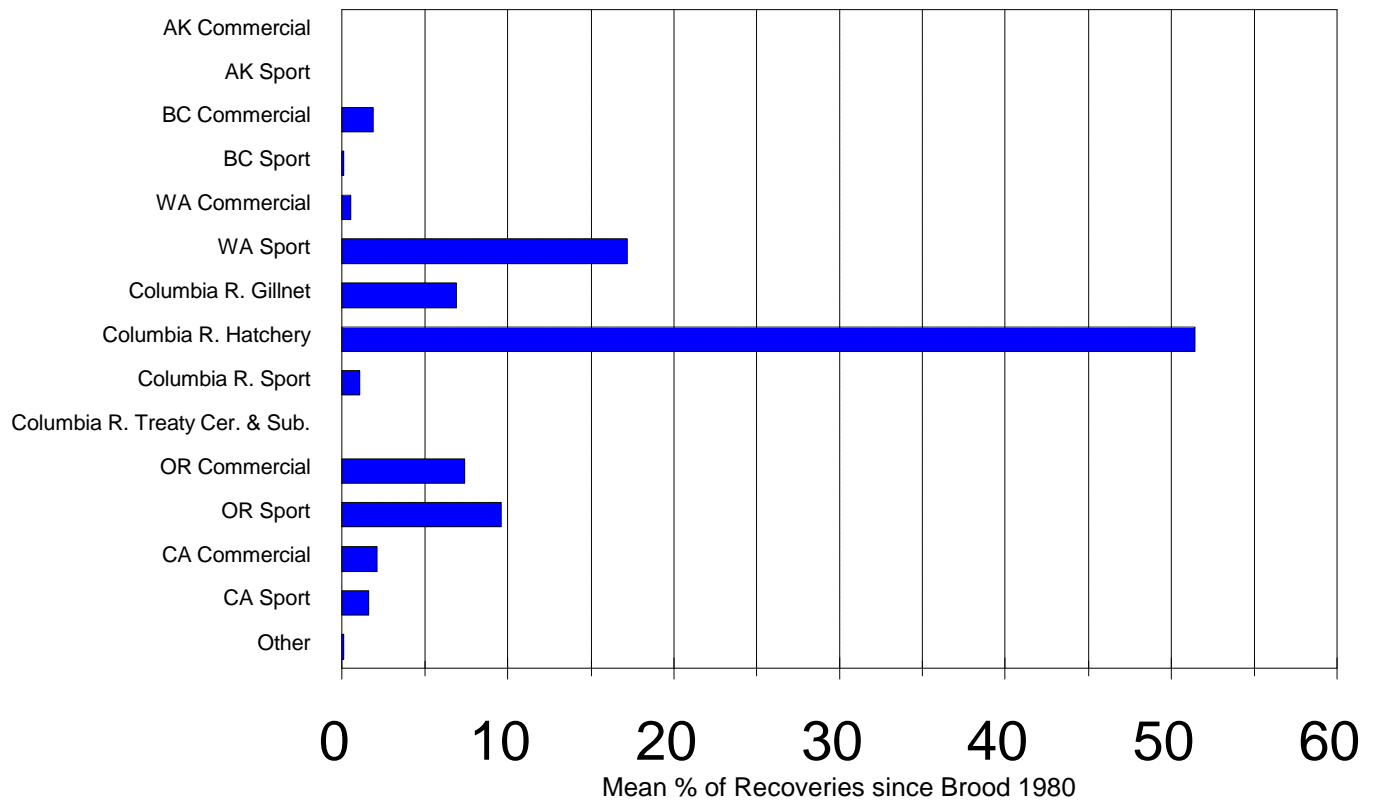


Eagle Creek NFH

Coho yearlings

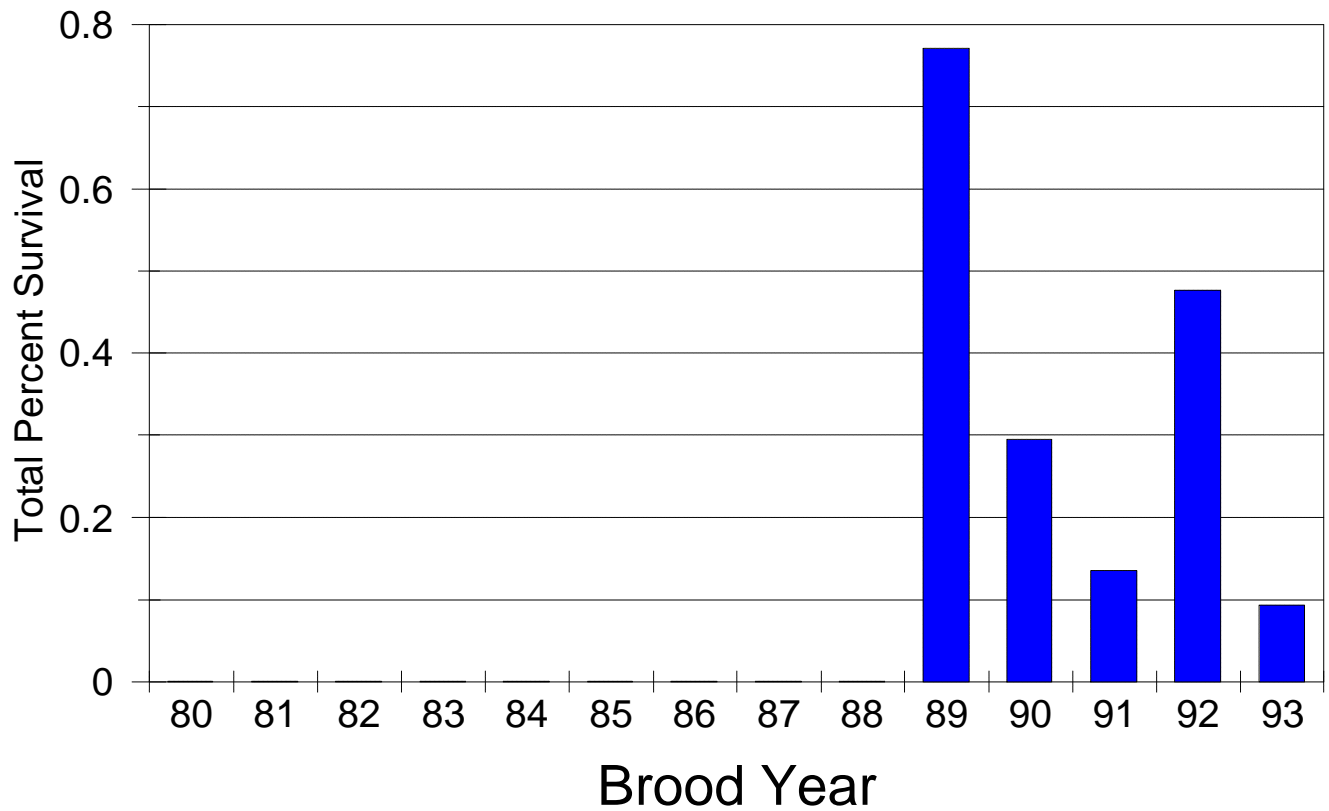


Eagle Creek NFH Coho yearlings



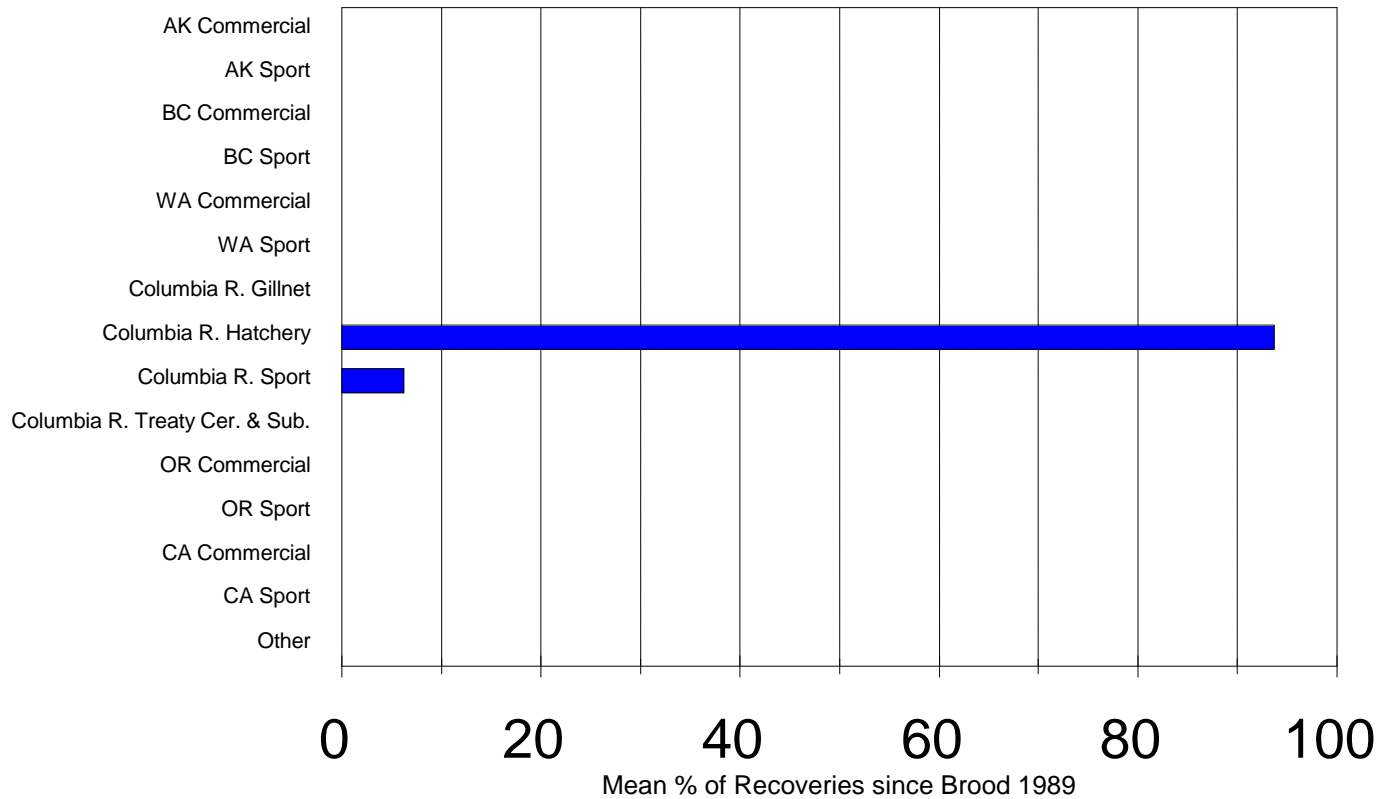
Eagle Creek NFH

Winter Steelhead yearlings



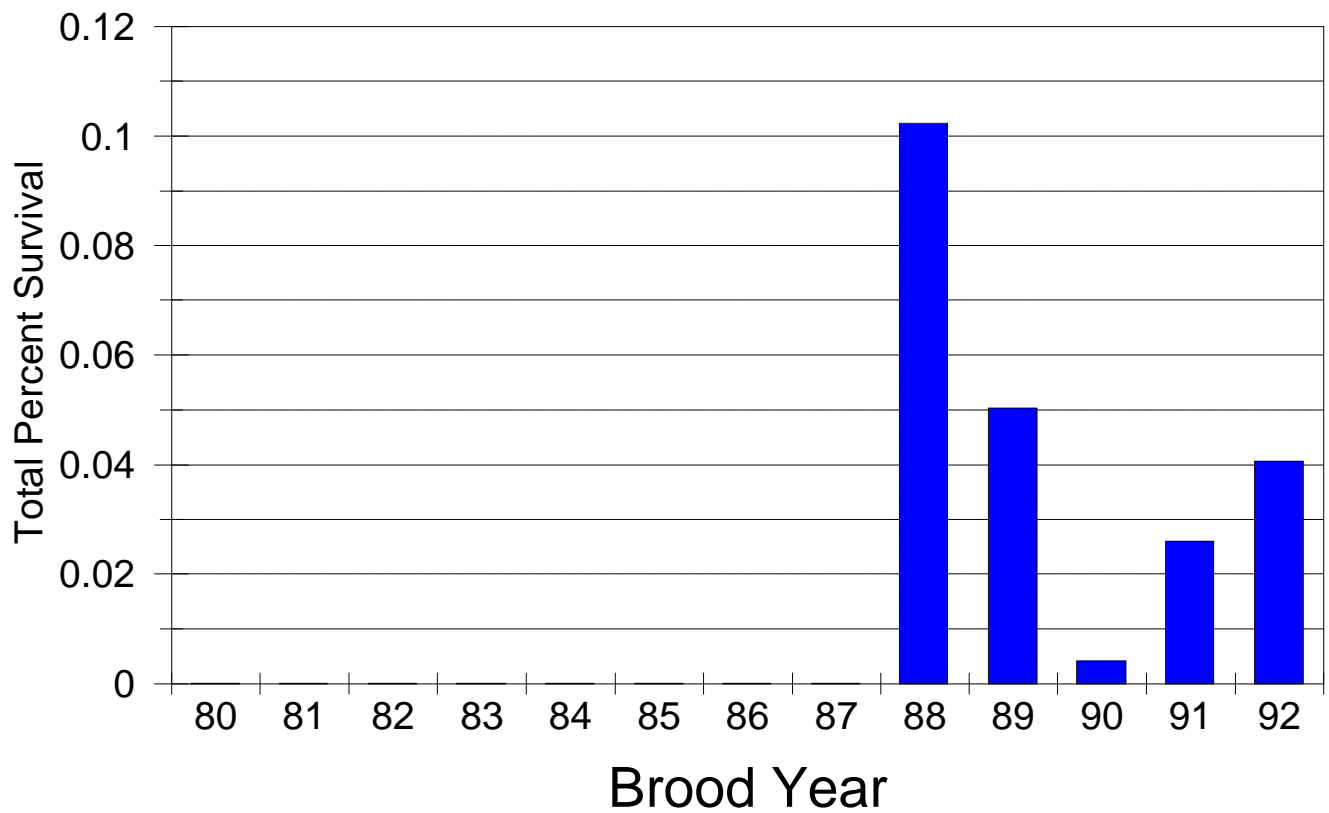
Eagle Creek NFH

Winter Steelhead yearlings



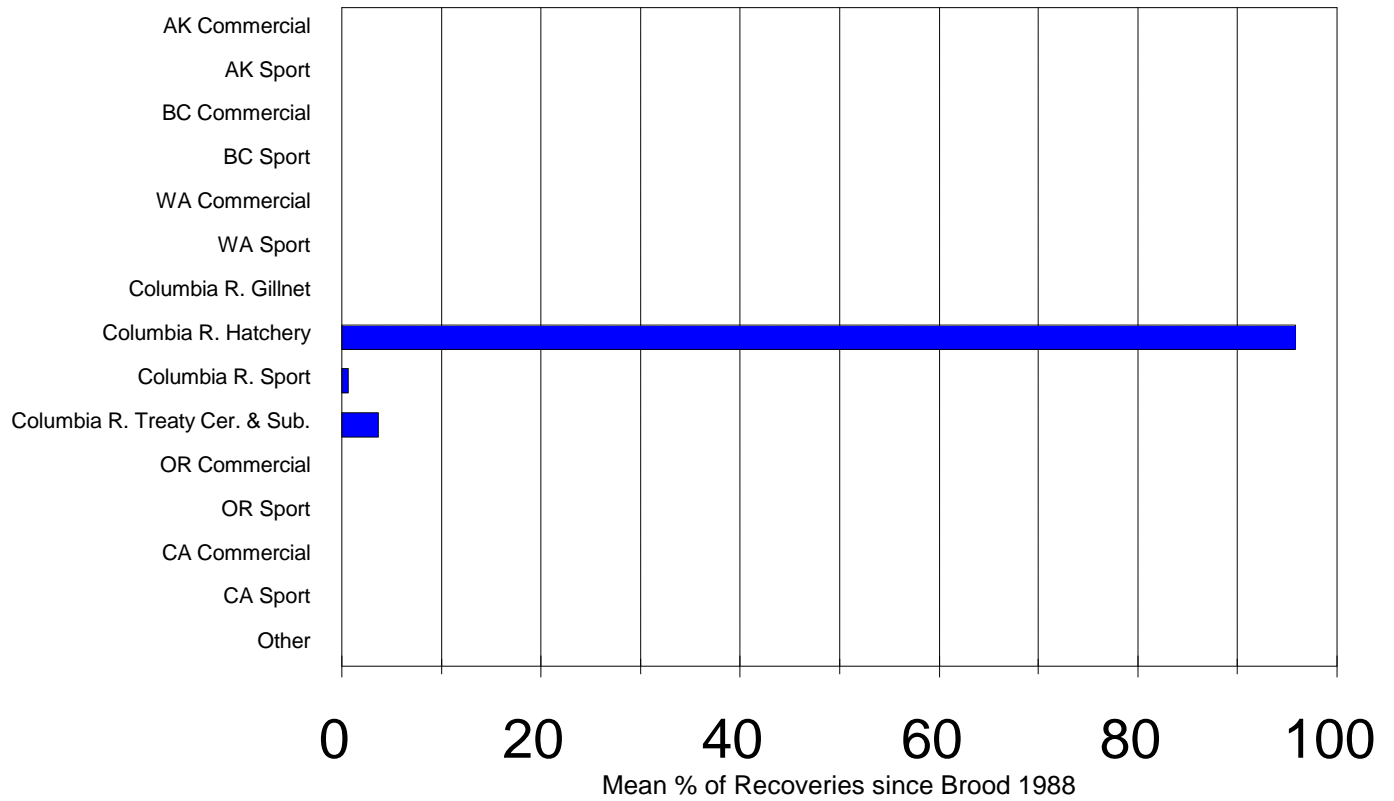
Entiat NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings



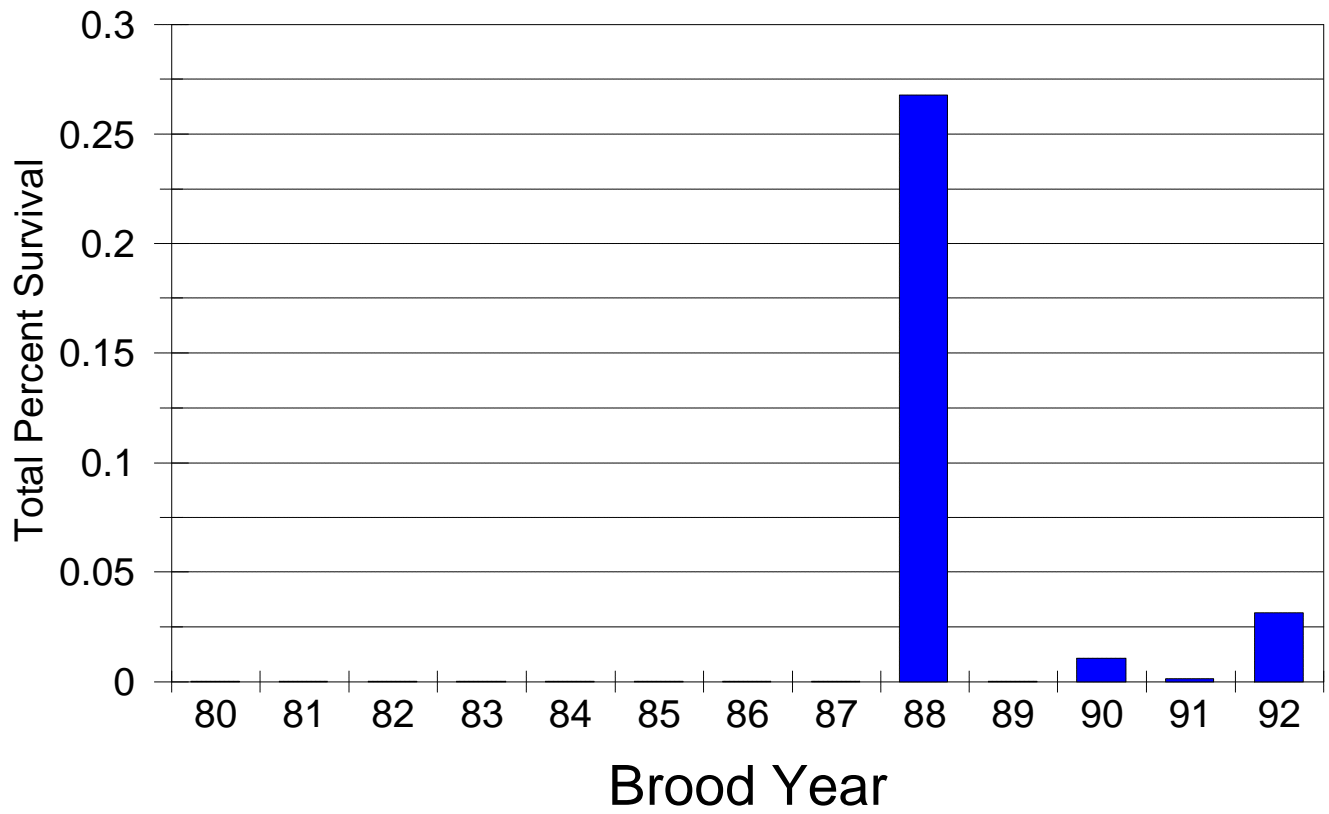
Entiat NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings



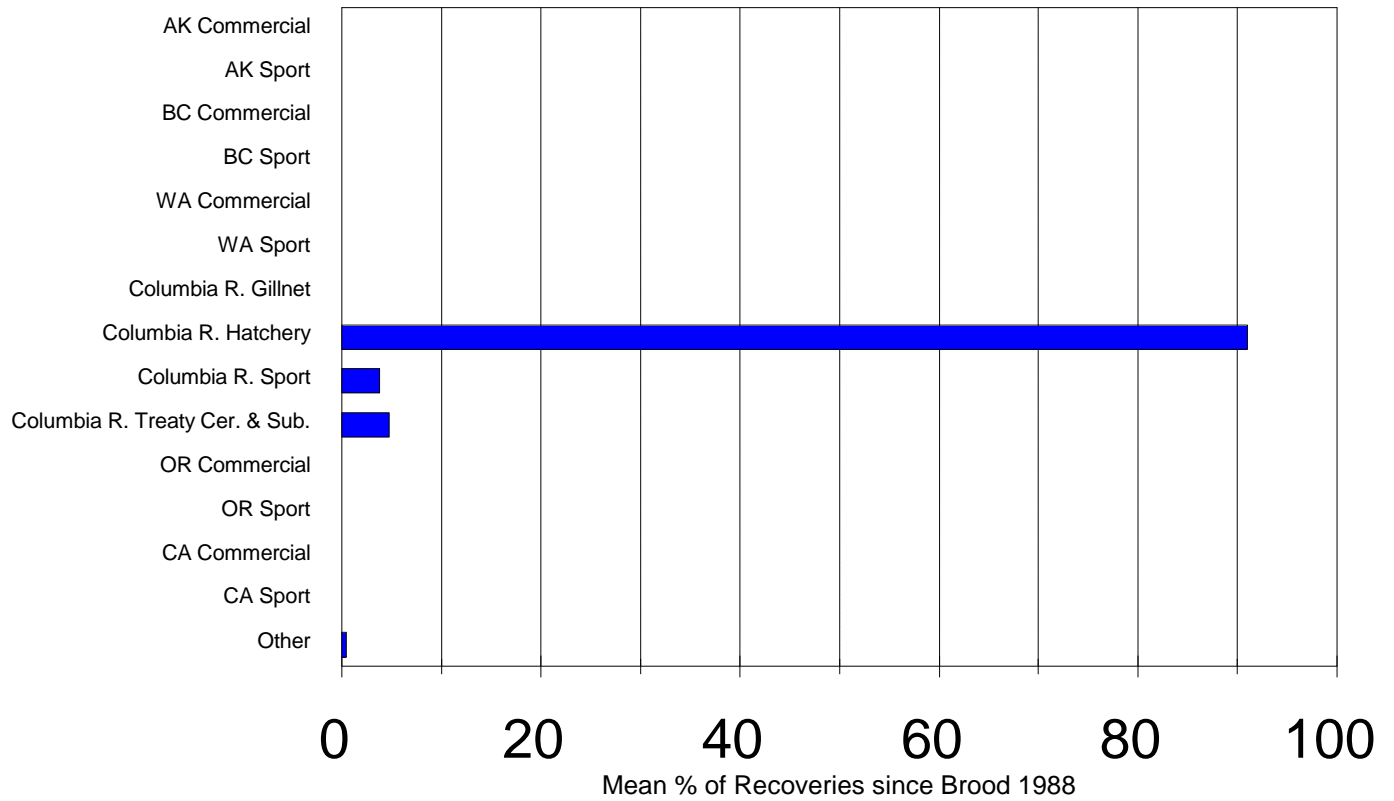
Kooskia NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings

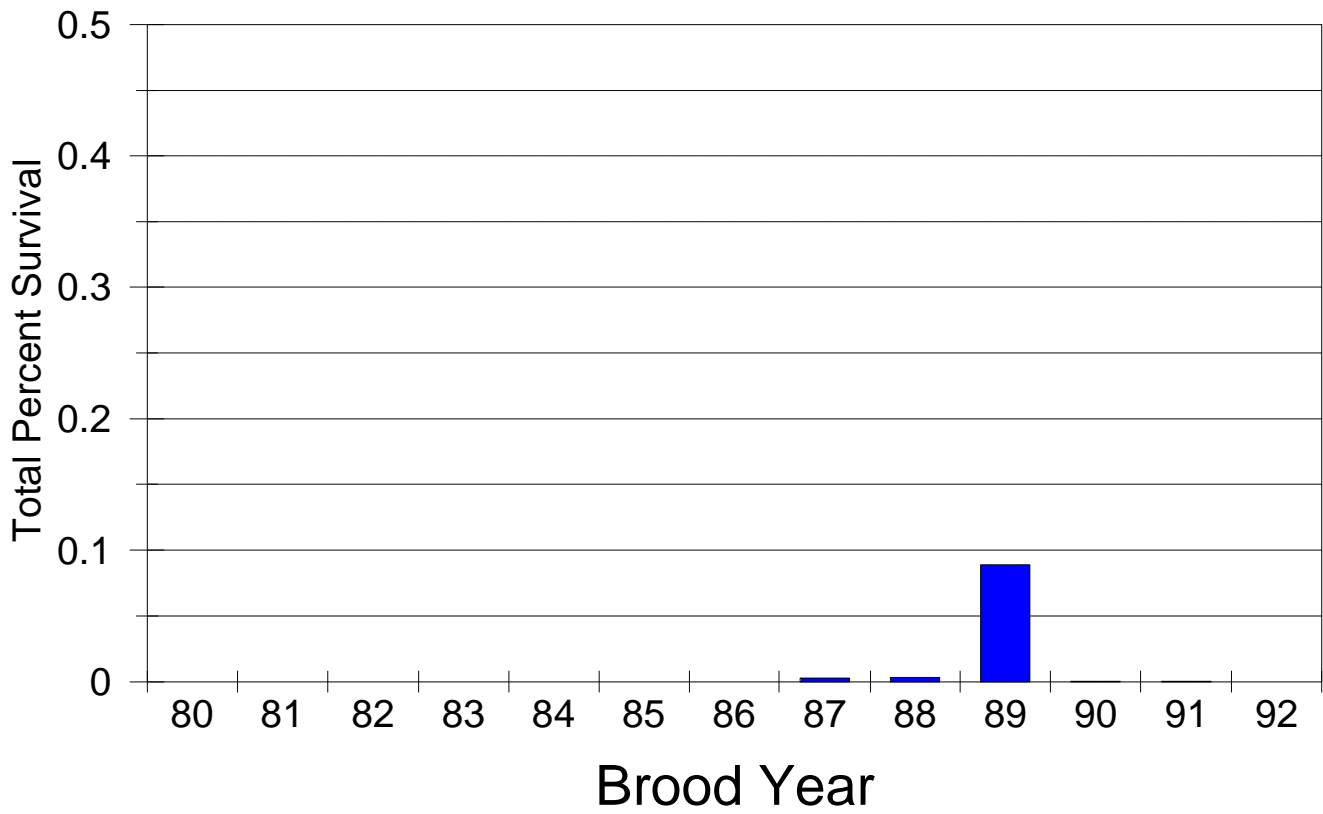


Kooskia NFH

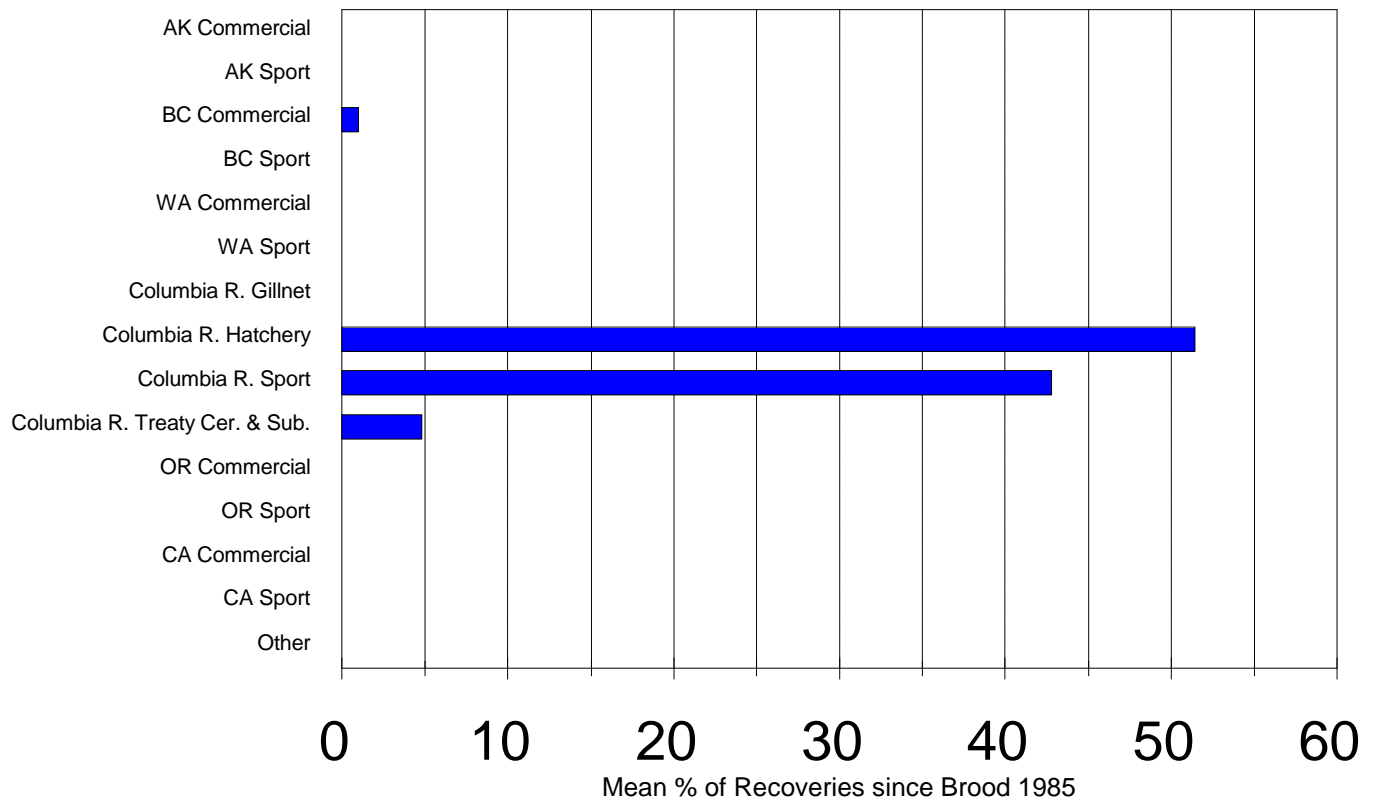
Spring Chinook yearlings



Leavenworth NFH Spring Chinook age 0

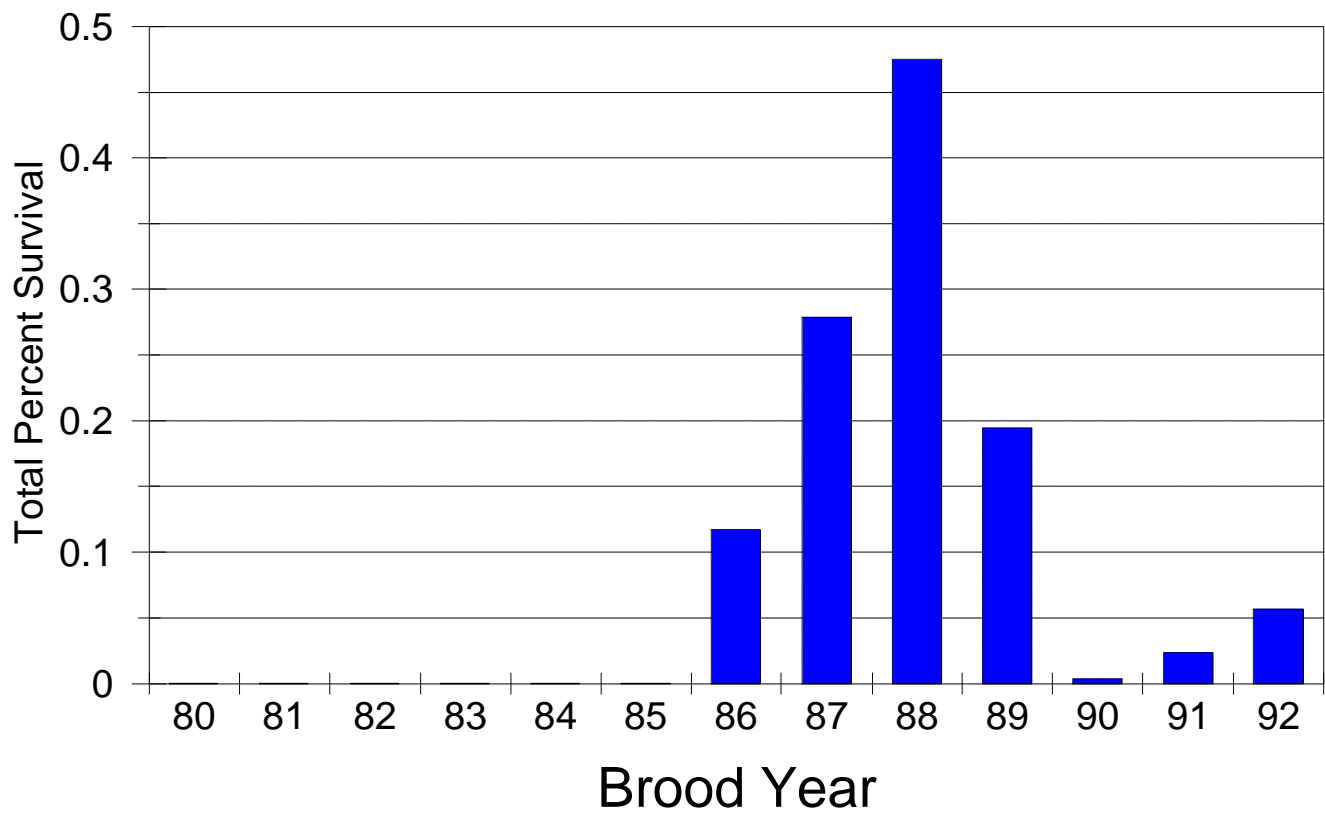


Leavenworth NFH Spring Chinook age 0



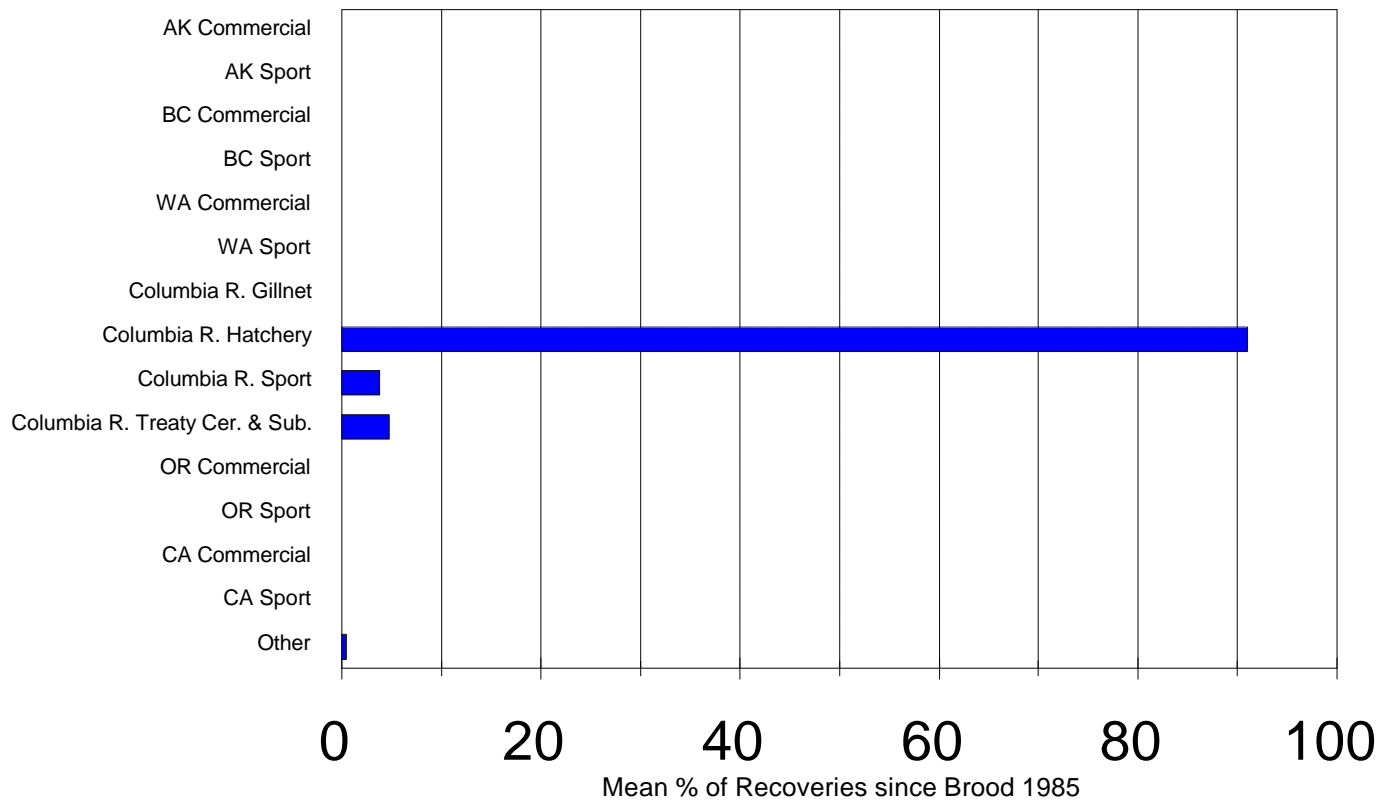
Leavenworth NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings



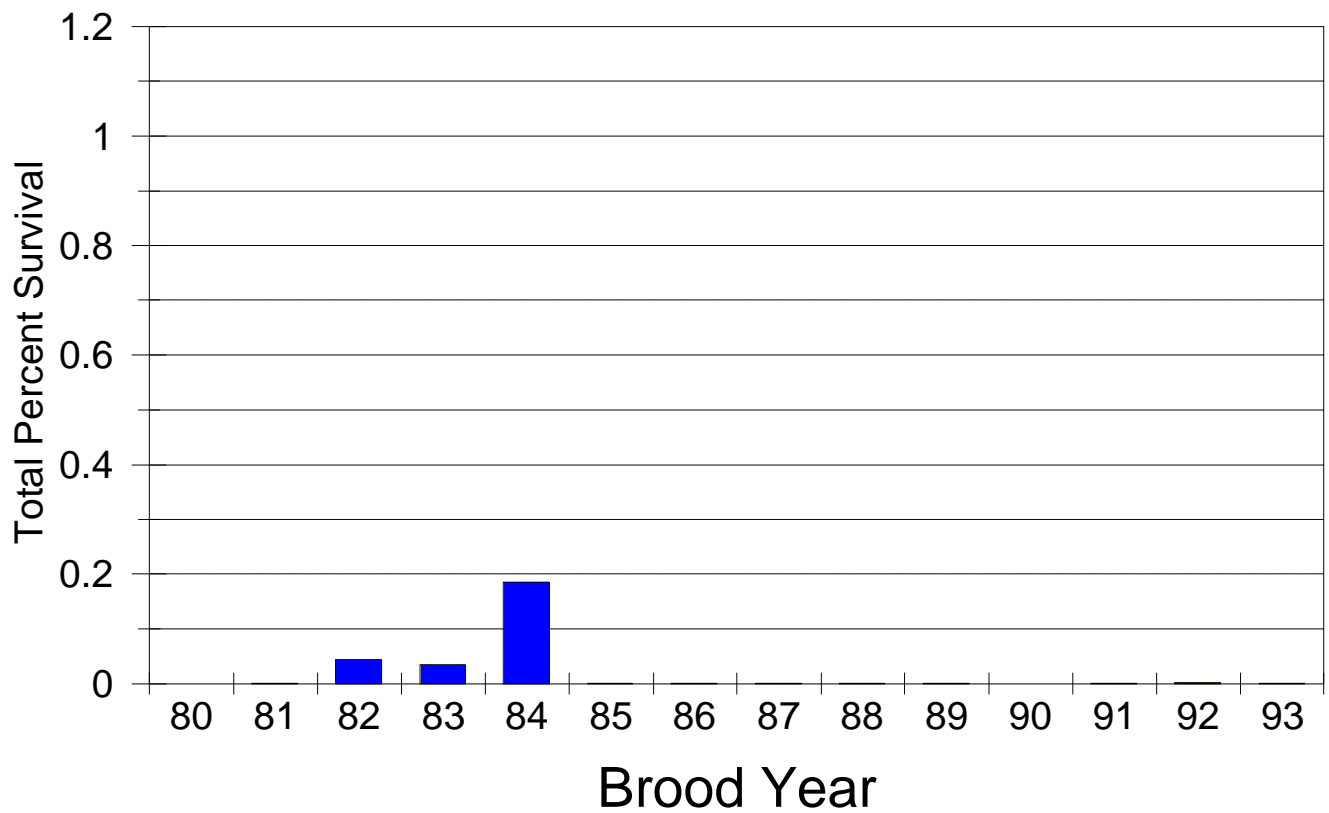
Leavenworth NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings



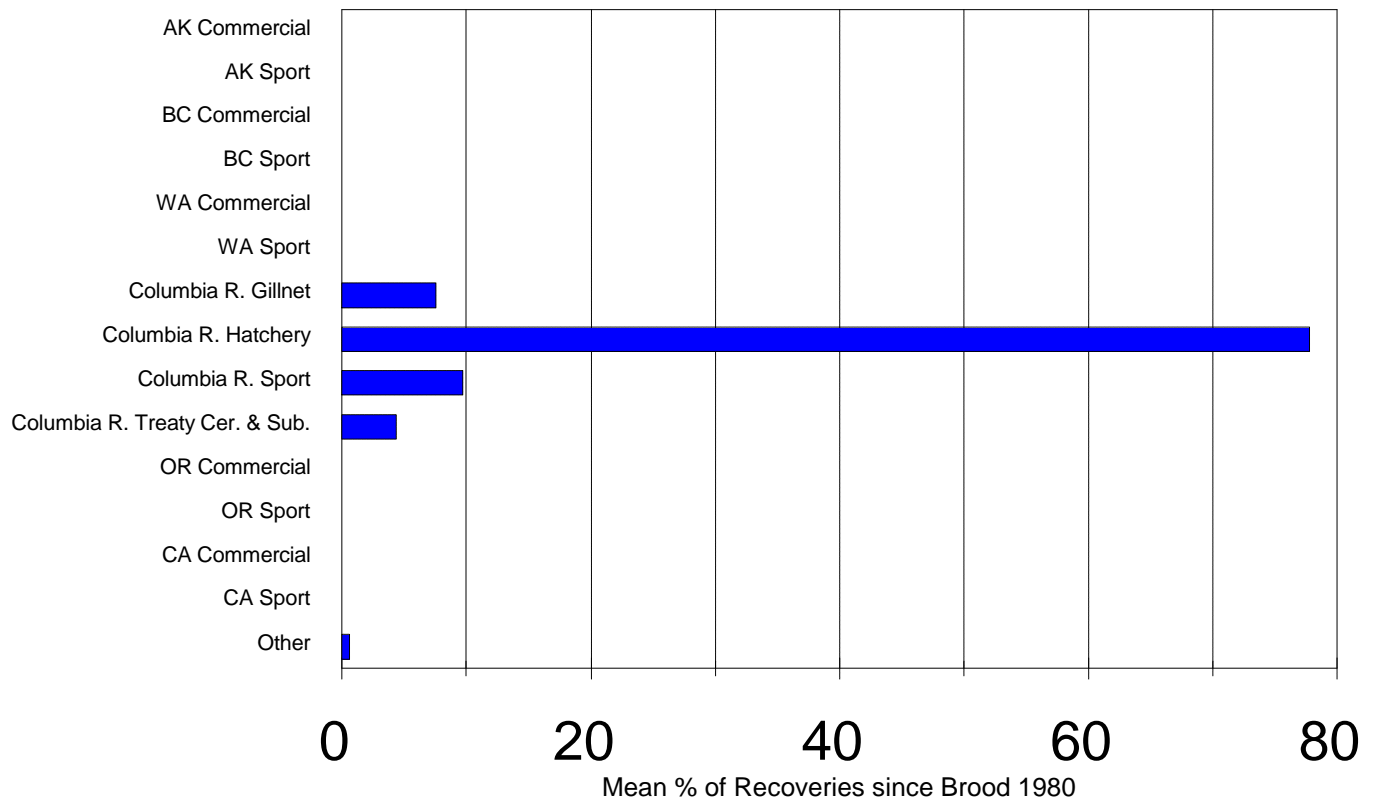
Little White Salmon NFH

Spring Chinook age 0



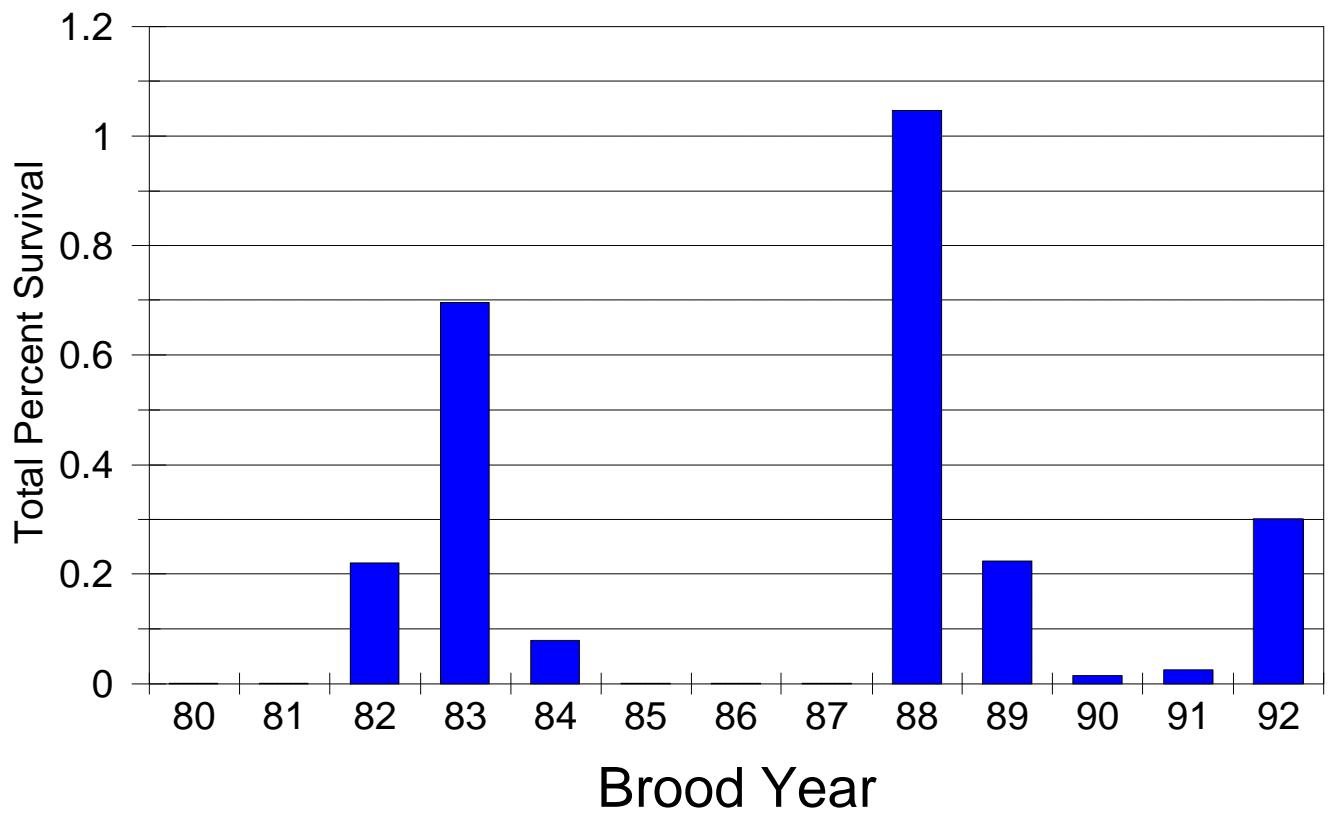
Little White Salmon NFH

Spring Chinook age 0

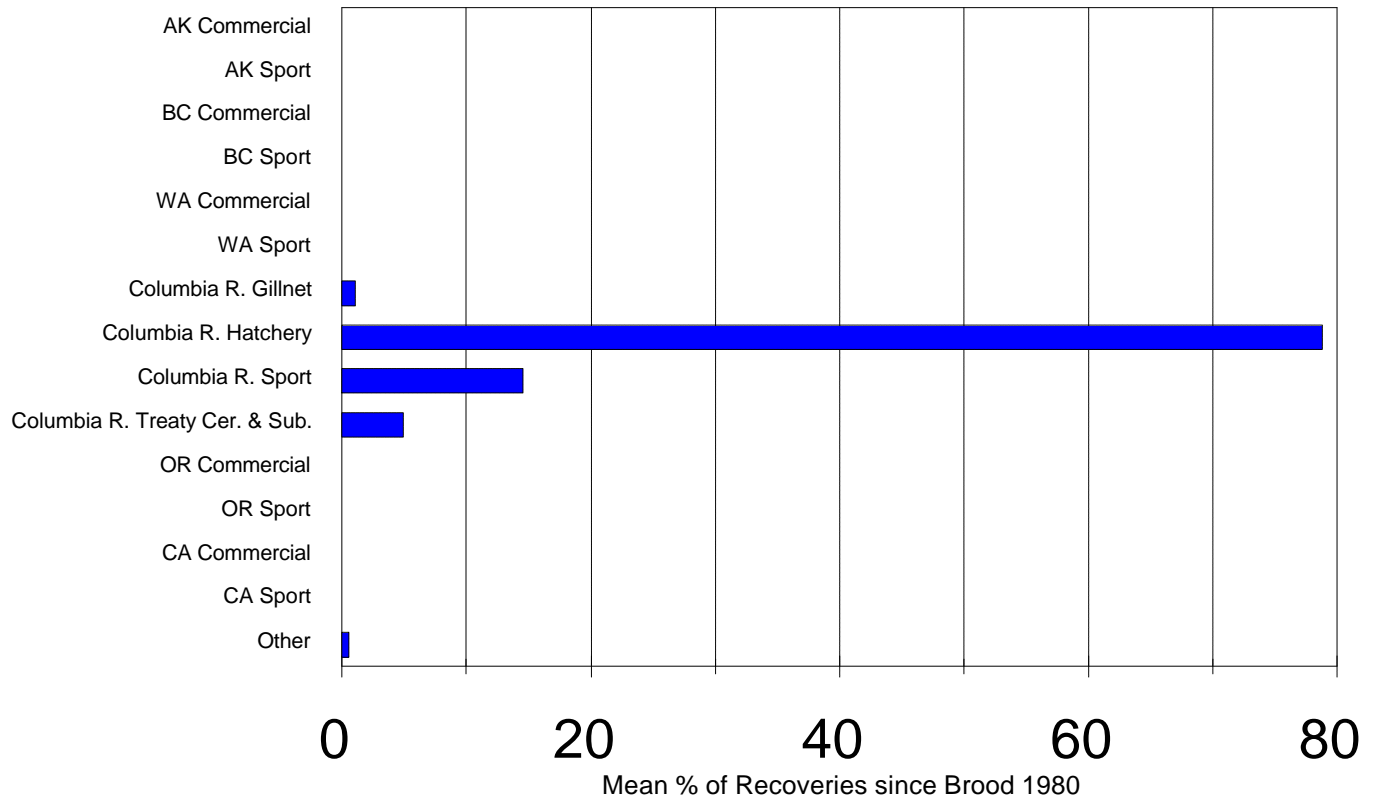


Little White Salmon NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings

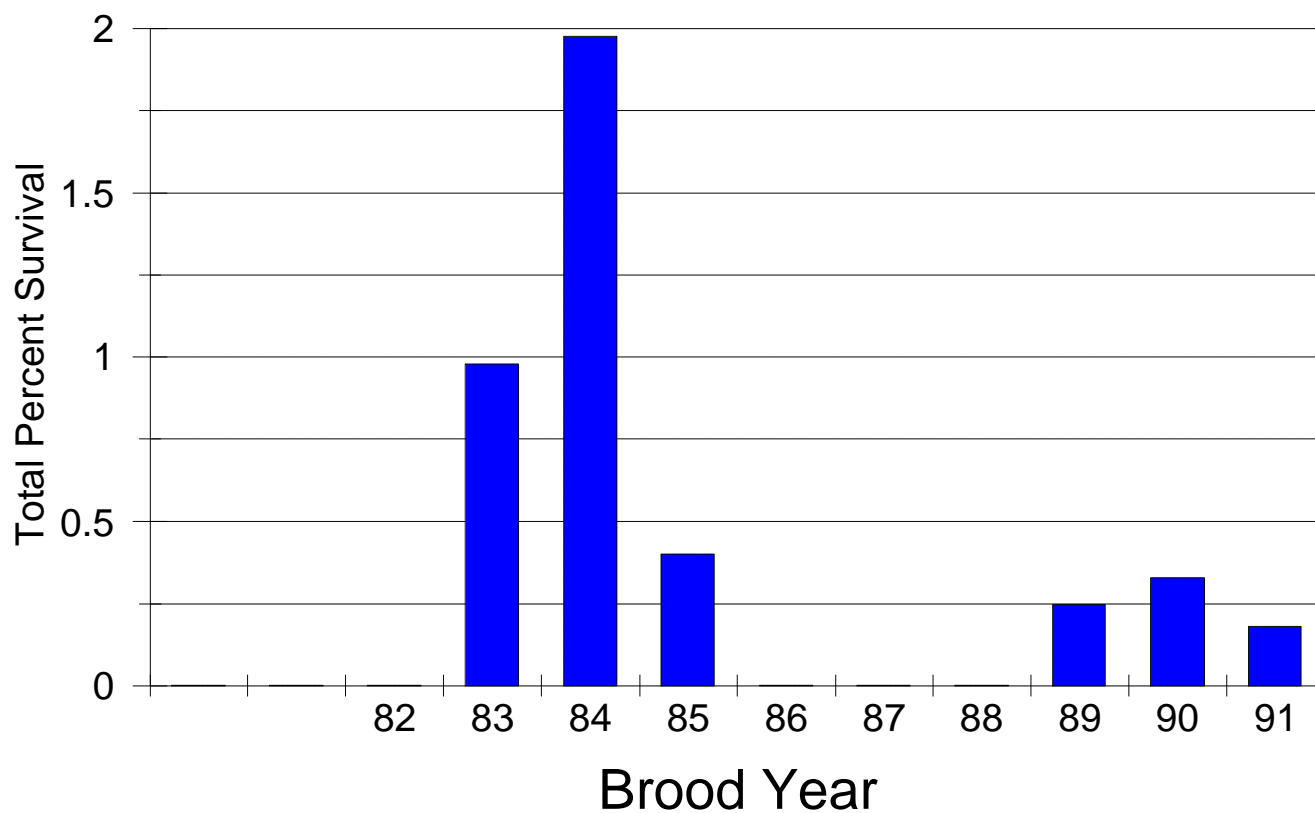


Little White Salmon NFH Spring Chinook yearlings



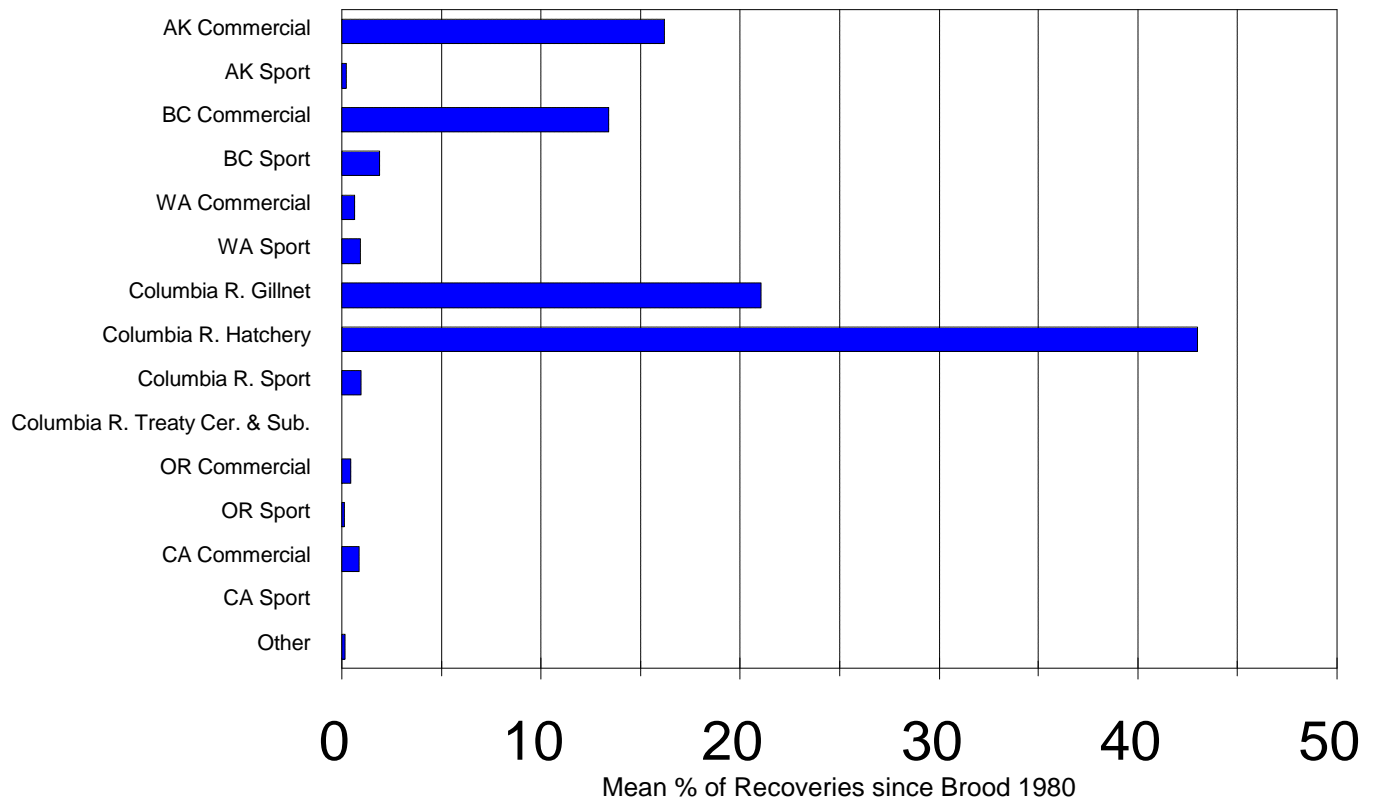
Little White Salmon NFH

Upriver Bright Fall Chinook fingerling



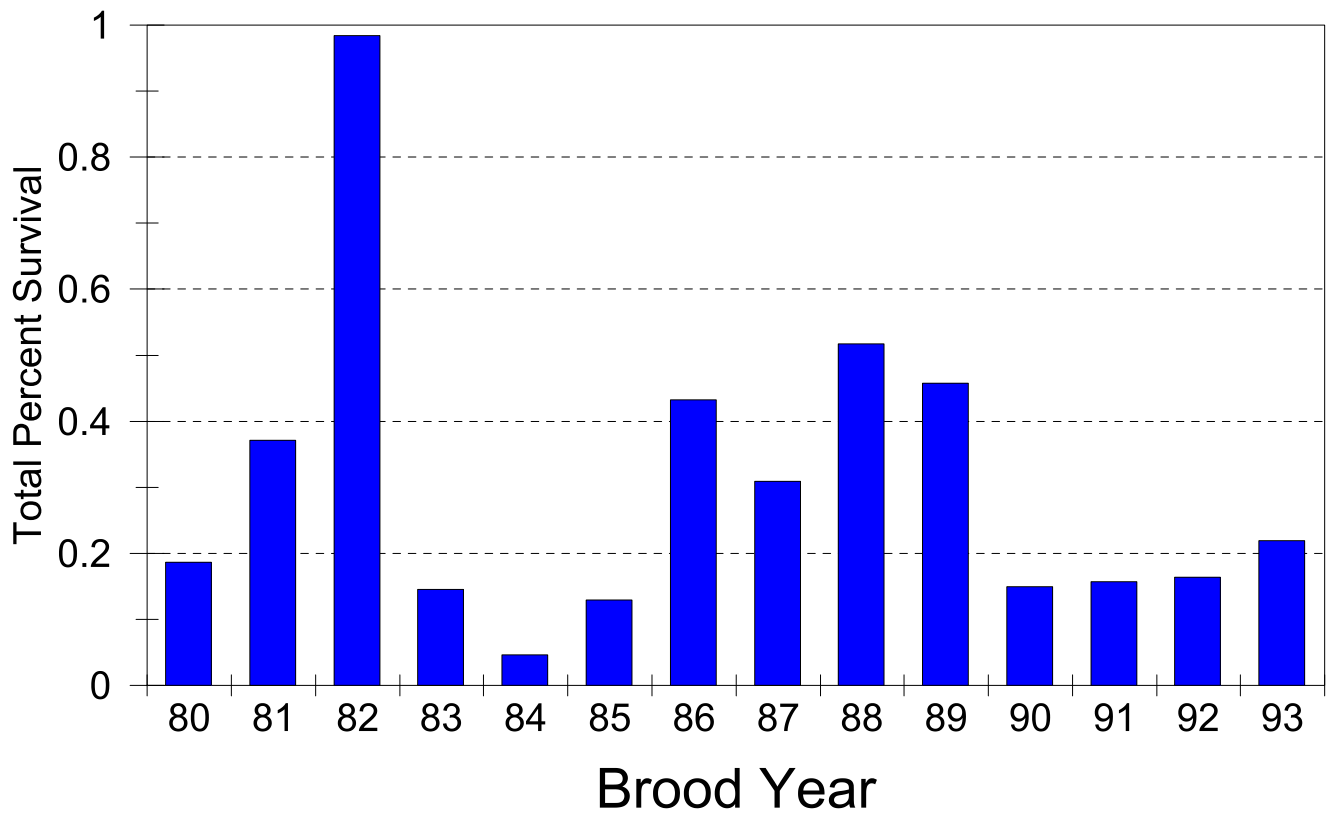
Little White Salmon NFH

Upriver Bright Fall Chinook fingerling



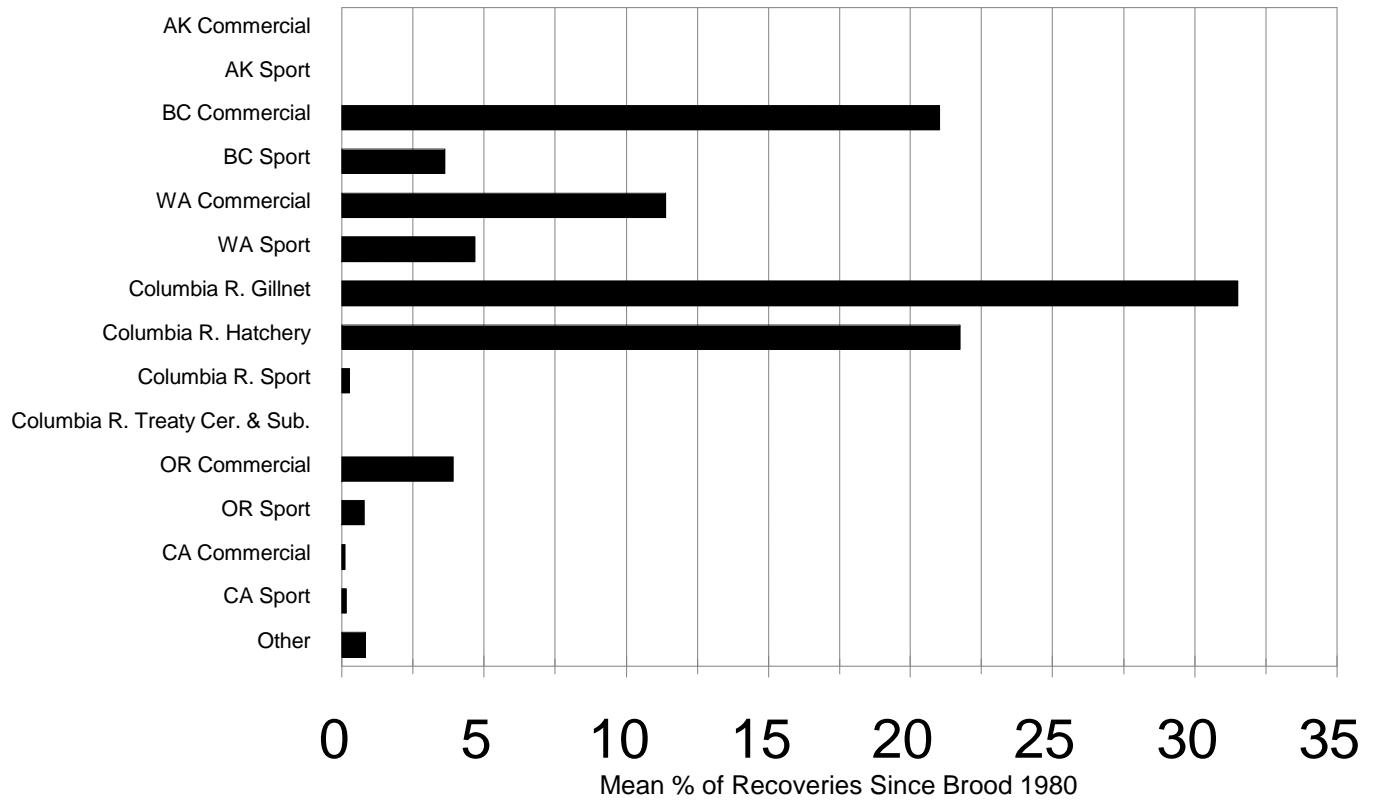
Spring Creek NFH

Tule Fall Chinook fingerlings

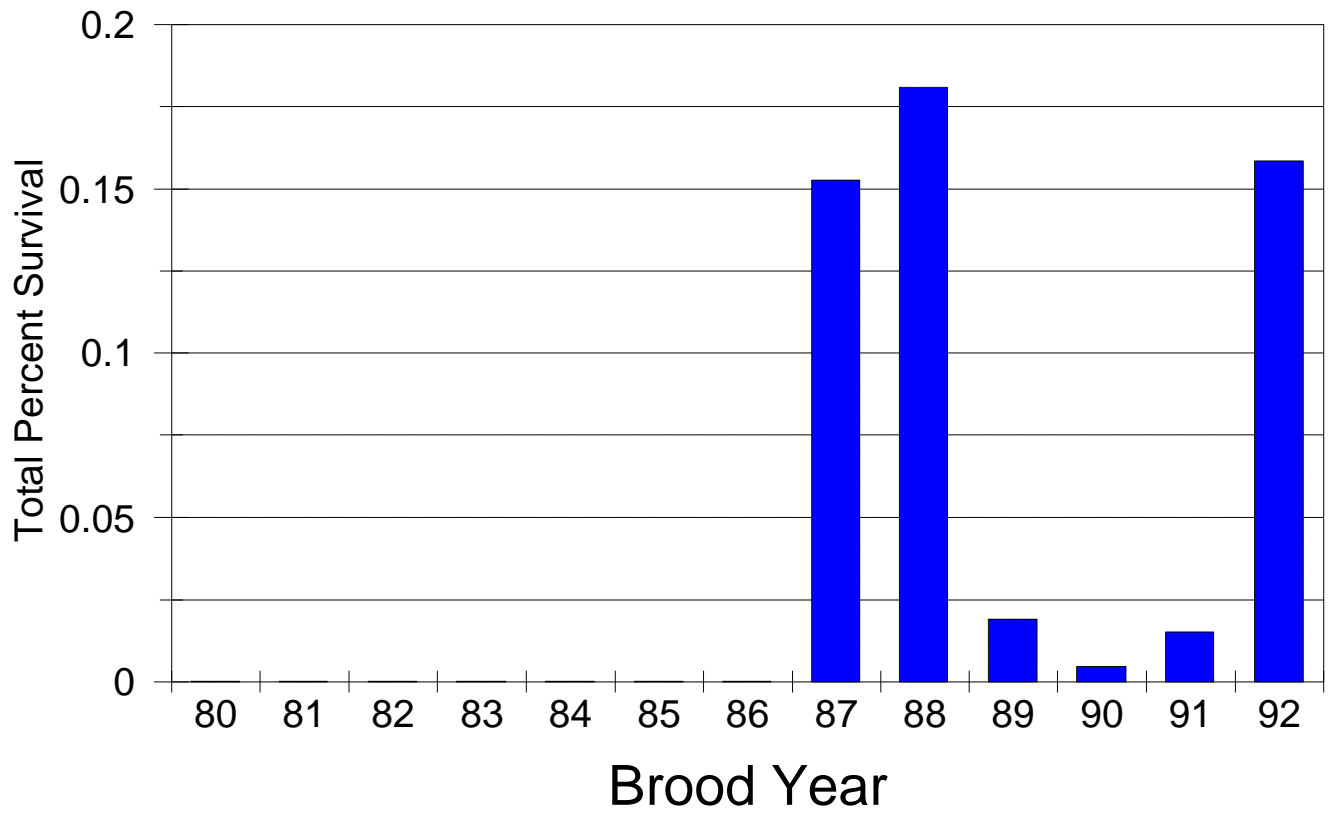


Spring Creek NFH

Tule Fall Chinook fingerlings

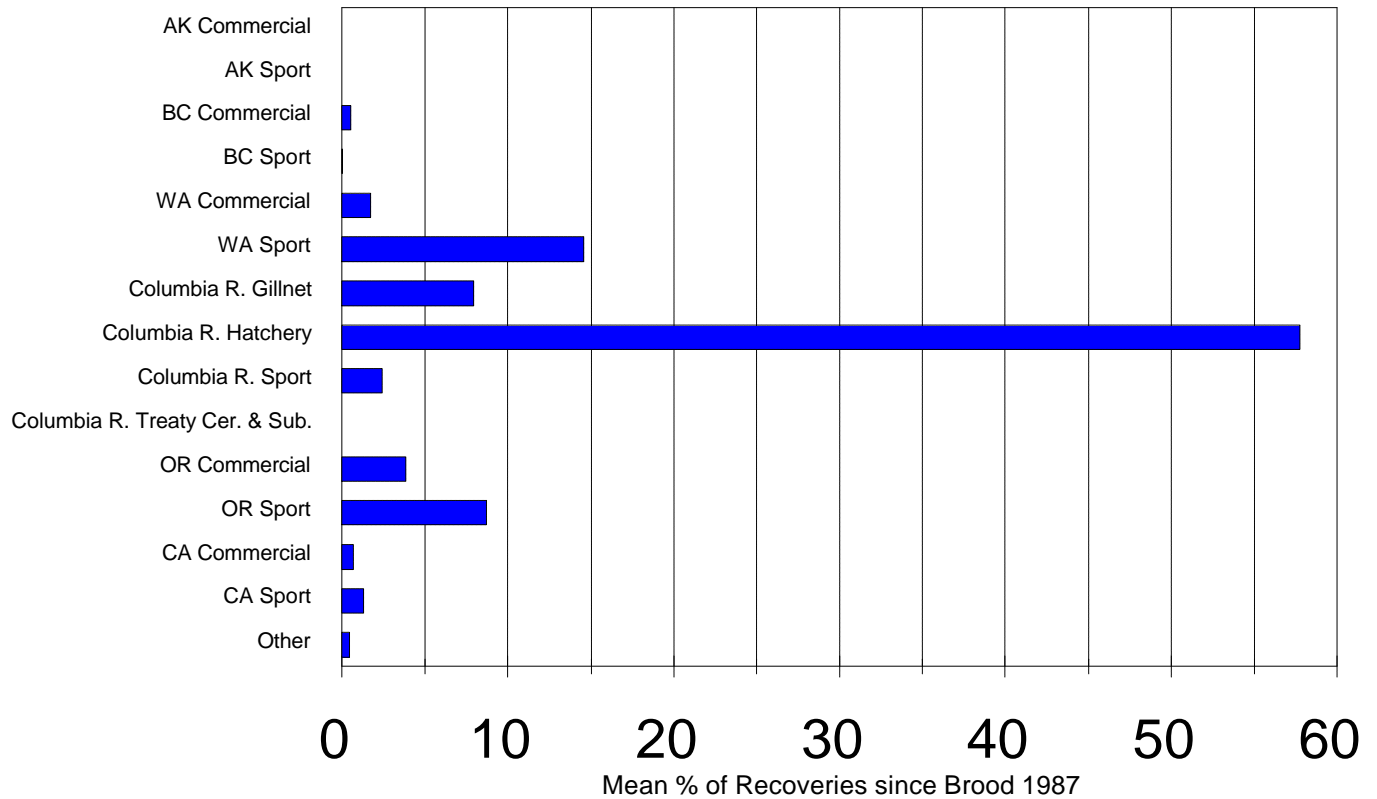


Warm Springs NFH Spring Chinook



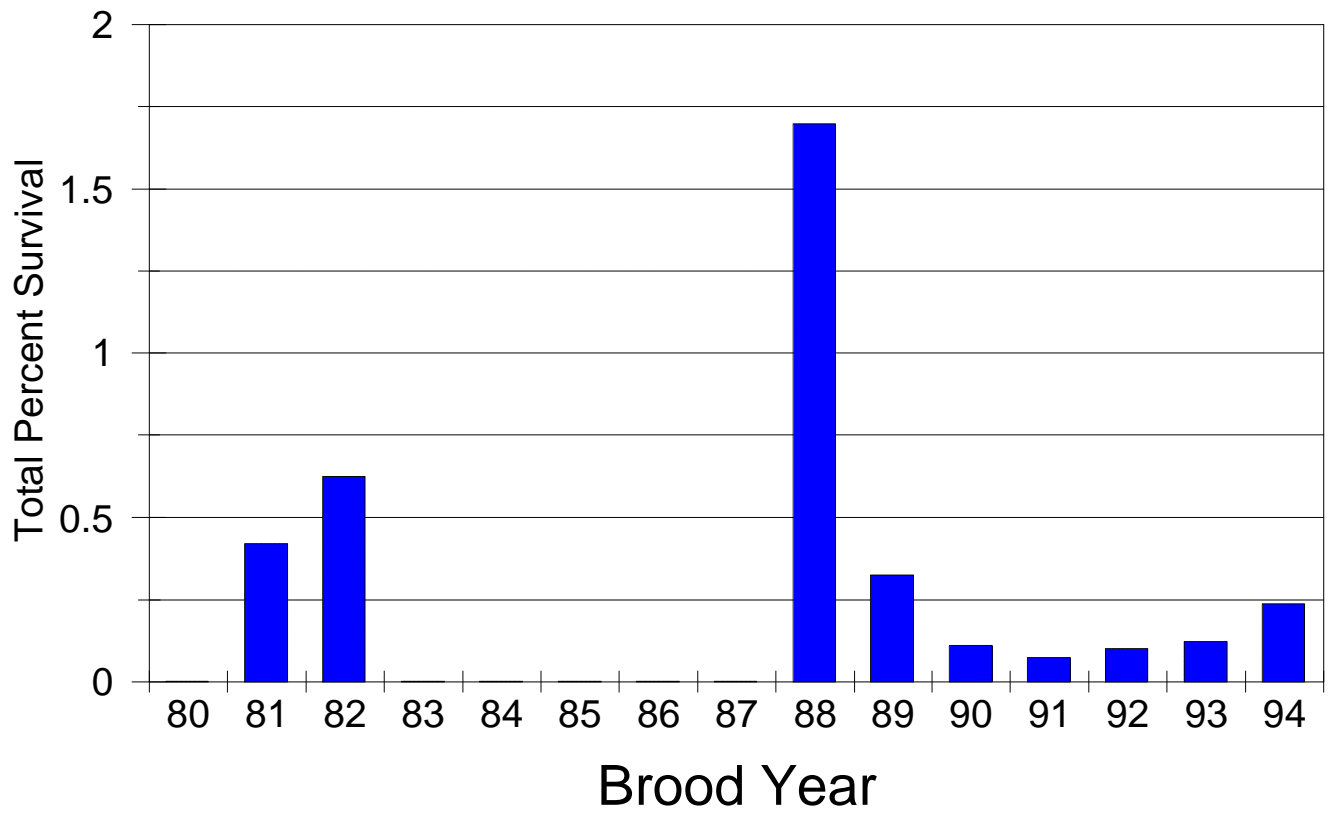
Warm Springs NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings

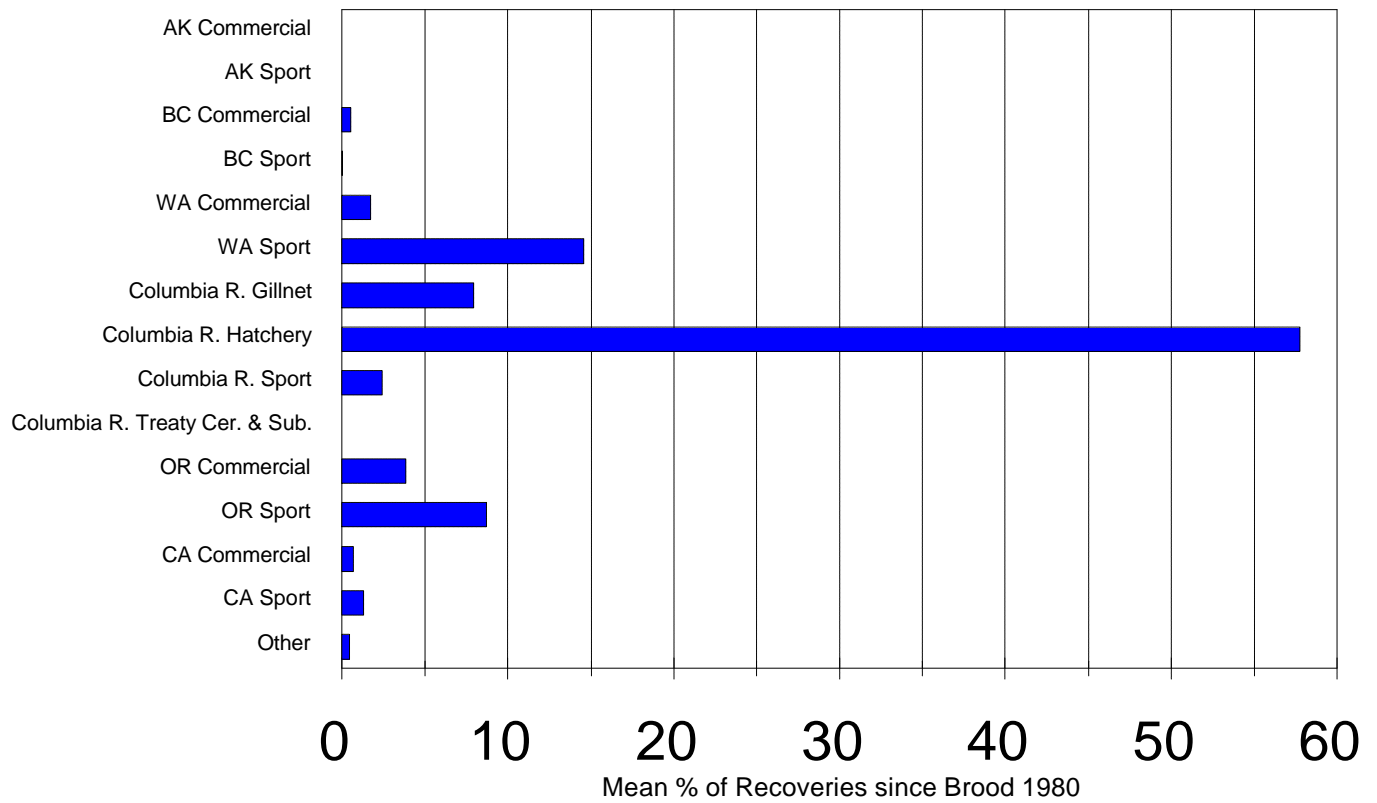


Willard NFH

Coho yearlings

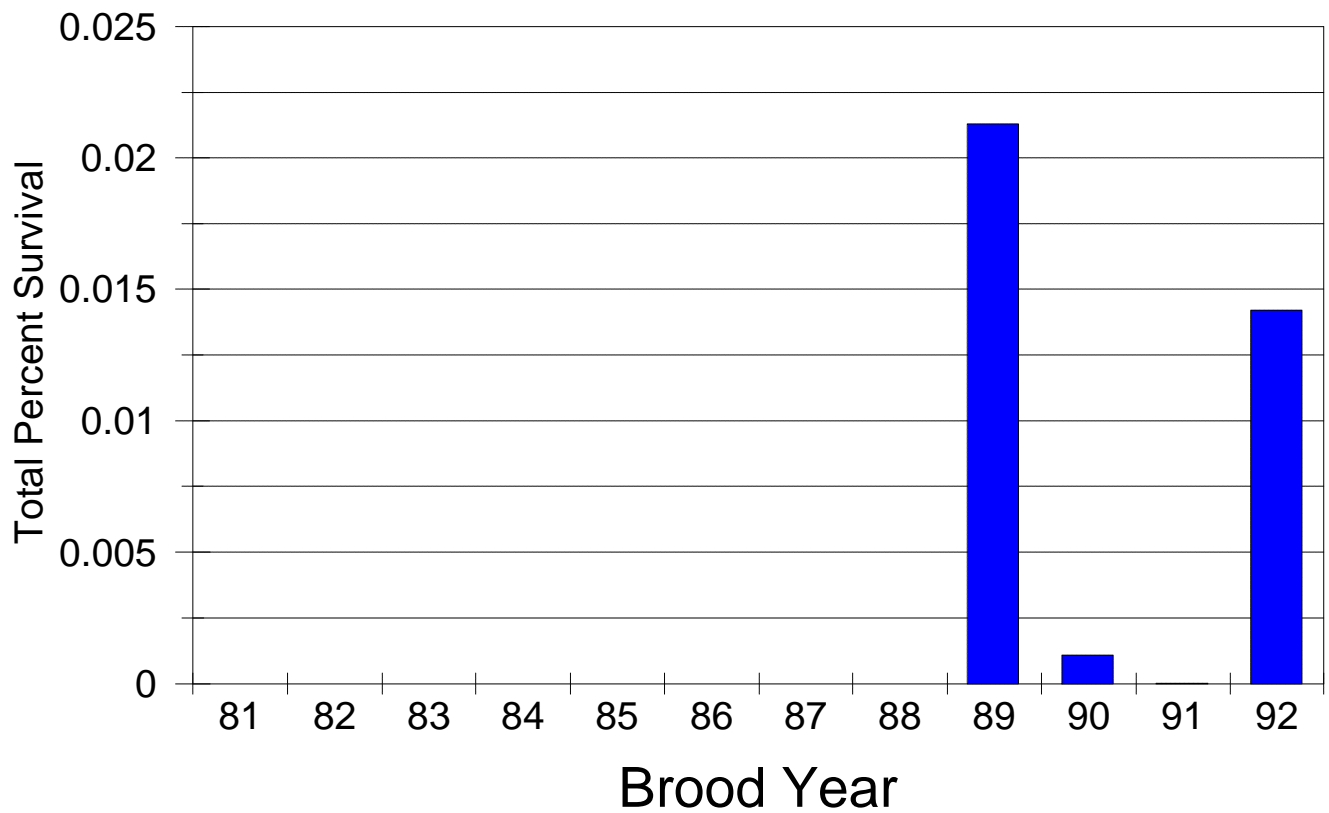


Willard NFH Coho yearlings



Winthrop NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings



Winthrop NFH

Spring Chinook yearlings

