

Table 1. Smolt release numbers from the Similkameen Pond program, before the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program (CJH), compared to recent and anticipated future smolt releases from the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program.

	Adult Salmon Return Year	Smolts Released	
		Summer Chinook	Spring Chinook
Pre-CJH	1993-2015	503,647	
	2016	158,267	
Post-CJH	2017	1,364,552	711,513
	2018	1,497,057	731,000
	2019	1,462,500	900,000
	2020	1,733,000	900,000

- On average the Similkameen Pond used to release about 500,000 smolts (juvenile salmon) annually before CJH production began in 2013.
- The last year before CJH production began there were only 158,000 smolts released.
- 2016 is the year this small release group returns to the Okanogan as adult salmon. Fishing for hatchery Chinook will not be good in 2016.
- The wild returns are predicted to be fairly strong in 2016, so broodstock collection and natural spawning escapement should be good, which is important for future fisheries.
- Beginning in 2017, adult salmon will return from the new CJH program's large smolt releases.
- The CJH program will continue to release 2-4 times as many smolts as the previous program.
- If ocean conditions remain favorable, the future outlook for harvestable hatchery Chinook is bright for the Upper Columbia in the long term.