Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Pêches et Océans Canada

Follow the Fish

The WCVI Follow the Fish Program

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One of British Columbia's most important natural resources:
Chinook salmon from the West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI)

Canada


Photo: Mitch Miller


Photo: Keaton McCallum

The WCVI Follow the Fish Program

Chinook salmon from the west coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) are one of British Columbia's most important natural resources. These stocks have long been major contributors to First Nations, commercial troll, and sport catches, from Alaska to southern Vancouver Island. WCVI Chinook salmon are found in more than 100 WCVI rivers; over 100 spawners return to about 60 of these rivers, and there may be more than 100,000 Chinook in rivers with major hatcheries (Figure 1). Twenty of the 60 rivers have some form of enhancement to supplement natural spawning, and there are major hatcheries on the Stamp, Conuma, and Nitinat rivers. Approximately 85% of the Chinook returning to WCVI are hatchery-origin while the remaining 15% are natural-origin or wild.

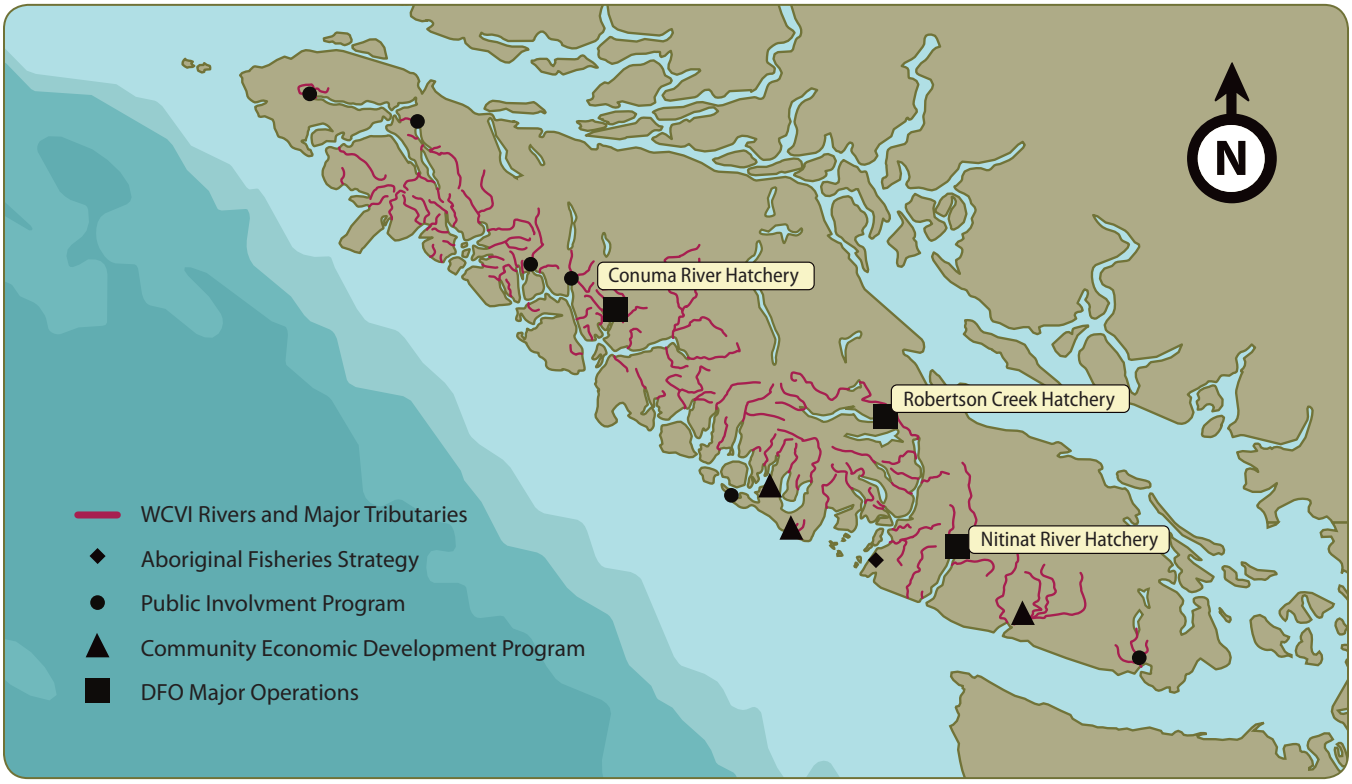


Figure 1. WCVI rivers and major tributaries with observations of Chinook (red lines), plus locations of hatcheries releasing Chinook along the WCVI (points). Adapted from Brown et al.[1] (DFO, under review).

1. Brown N., Holt C., Irvine J.R., Luedke W., McHugh D., Thom M. in review. West Coast of Vancouver Island natural-origin Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) stock assessment. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Working Paper.

Cover photos: Eiko Jones

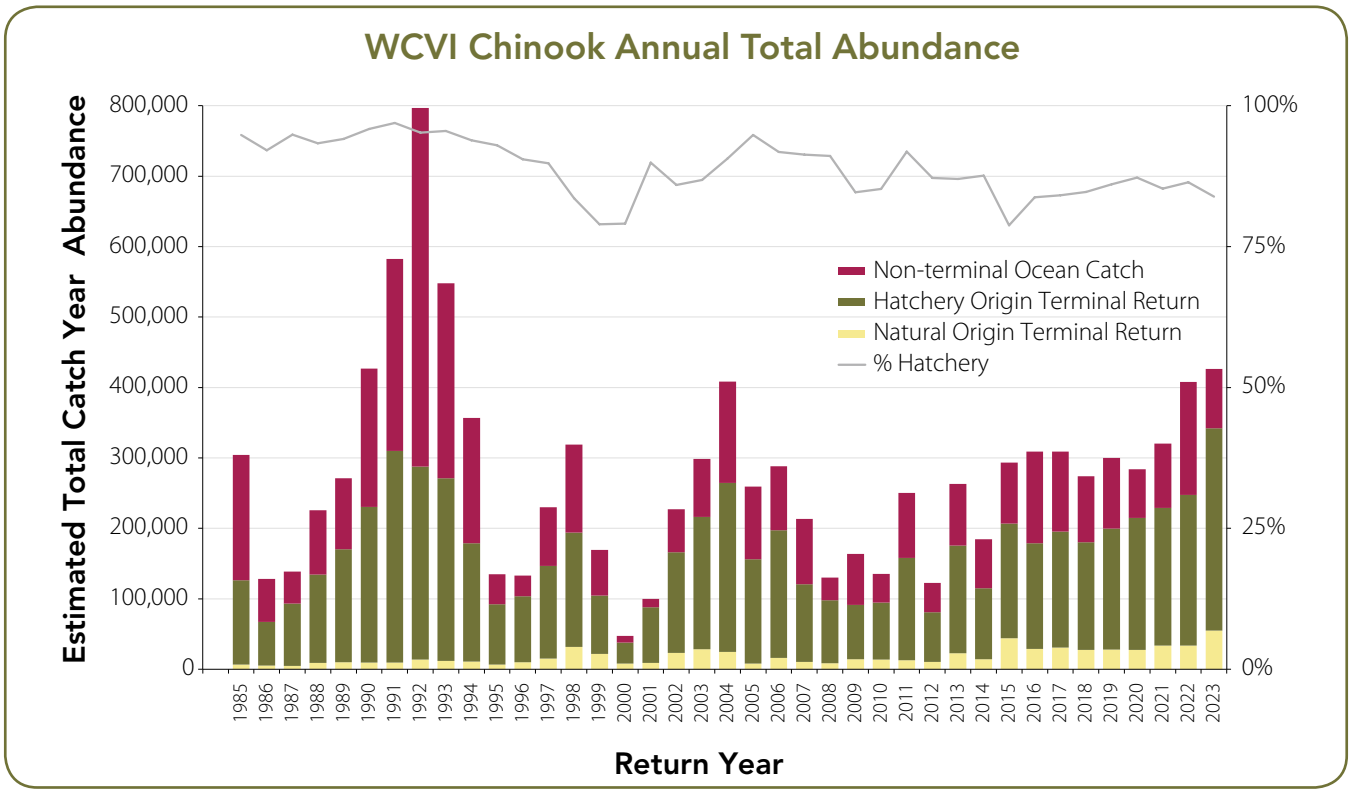


Figure 2. Annual estimates of adult total catch year abundance of WCVI Chinook salmon showing the proportion caught in pre-terminal fisheries, and terminal returns of hatchery origin and natural origin Chinook. The blue line (plotted on the second y-axis) shows the estimated percent hatchery-origin for each year's return (~85% on average). Data for 2023 are preliminary. From Brown et al. (DFO, under review).

WCVI Chinook salmon populations declined precipitously in the mid 1990s (Figure 2). Natural origin returns in total remain low with some populations in south-west Vancouver Island showing no signs of rebuilding. Survival rates for naturally spawning WCVI Chinook are now below replacement levels. In 2020, WCVI Chinook was listed as "Threatened" by Canada's Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife triggering the need for a Chinook Rebuilding Plan[2]. There are likely many factors contributing to the low abundance and continued declines of WCVI wild Chinook.

Welch et al. (2020)[3] pulled together smolt-to-adult return data for Chinook salmon from all available regions of the Pacific coast of North America to examine the large-scale patterns of salmon survival. They found that survival collapsed over the past half century to less than 1% for many regions; and noted that the similarity in the timing of these declines would suggest that survival is driven primarily by broader oceanic factors rather than local factors. However, within WCVI, some populations are generally doing more poorly than others (e.g. some Clayoquot Sound stocks appear to be more depressed than other WCVI Chinook stocks), which suggests that there are also local scale factors at work in the different sounds and river systems on the WCVI.

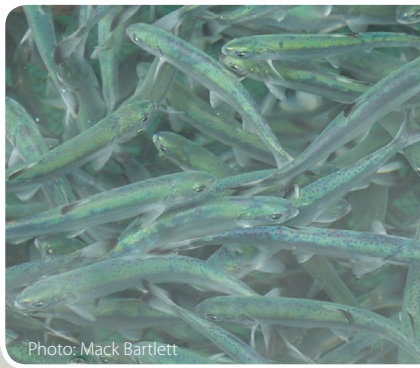


Photo: Mack Bartlett


Photo: Mitch Miller

2. Posted at Integrated Fisheries Management Plans as they become available.

3. Welch et al. 2020. A synthesis of the coast-wide decline in survival of West Coast Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, Salmonidae). Fish and Fisheries 2020; 00:1–18. https://doi.org/10.1111/faf.12514.

What are the Reasons for WCVI Chinook Declines?

Before action can be taken to rebuild a population, it is necessary to understand the causes of decline, so that mitigation actions can be targeted and have a better chance of success. The Risk Assessment Methodology for Salmon (RAMS) process was used to help identify and prioritize the factors limiting WCVI salmon production, both now and within the context of climate change anticipated to occur by 2050. RAMS assesses the biological risk posed by both man-made and natural stressors acting on Pacific salmon in freshwater, estuarine and marine environments. A life history model approach is used to assess when, where and how these stressors may influence the productivity and capacity of the subject salmon population(s) and their associated environment.

Freshwater RAMS Risk Assessment processes were applied to 18 WCVI watersheds in San Juan, Barkley Sound, Clayoquot Sound, Nootka Sound and Kyuquot, and results were synthesized by Bolt et al. (2023)[4]. These workshops examined the risks to salmon in their freshwater and estuarine life stages only. This was followed by a WCVI Marine Risk Assessment, which was the first ever application of RAMS in the marine environment; this was used to assess the specific risk of limiting factors acting upon WCVI Chinook smolts, sub adults and adult life stages rearing in nearshore and coastal marine waters and within the North Pacific Ocean (Irvine et al. 2024)[5]. The Freshwater and Marine Risk Assessment processes were carried out with DFO scientists, First Nations community members, local stewards, provincial biologists and fishery biologists to compare the impacts of over 70 factors potentially impacting WCVI Chinook in both freshwater and marine environments.

Factors examined included:

i. **Water quality (e.g. temperature, salinity, oxygen)**

ii. **Freshwater hydrology to ocean currents**

iii. **Changes to physical habitat**

iv. **Biological community — ecosystem interactions such as competition and predation**

v. **Direct anthropogenic impacts (e.g. fishing, other direct mortalities)**

Photo: Eiko Jones

The risk assessment processes helped to create a common understanding of: the state of knowledge regarding the status of WCVI Chinook; their freshwater and marine life history; the principal factors affecting their survival during their freshwater and marine rearing phases; the long-term outlook for WCVI Chinook under climate change; the key knowledge gaps and suggestions for research and monitoring.

Results indicated that declining survivals and productivity of natural-origin WCVI Chinook result from the cumulative effects of many factors. The Freshwater Risk Assessments indicated that habitat degradation has likely lowered productivity in many systems, with impacts such as reduced egg to smolt survival, earlier outmigration, and smaller smolts (Bolt et al. 2023). One of the highest risks identified was a 'carry-over effect' which occurs when smaller and less robust pre-smolts and smolts outmigrate and have higher vulnerability than larger smolts to risks during their subsequent time rearing in the estuary and early marine areas along the WCVI.

The Marine Risk Assessment found that the early marine life stages had the highest mortalities overall, with almost all limiting factors assessed as high risk for that life stage (Irvine et al. 2024), and that cumulative risks are likely across various ecosystem factors, including:

- Large ocean processes affecting the WCVI nearshore ecosystem
- Local water quality especially localized high temperature and low dissolved oxygen levels
- Harmful algal blooms in summer
- Pathogens, parasites, and disease outbreaks
- Quality, quantity and timing of prey available during the first year at sea
- Predation
- Competition with hatchery fish

4. Bolt, M., Hutchinson, J., Carson, C., and Kwasnecha, K. 2023. West Coast Vancouver Island Chinook Freshwater Risk Assessment Synthesis Report. Redd Fish Restoration Society Technical Report

5. Irvine, J.R., Luedke, W., Pearsall, I., Sastri, A., Carson, C., Menendez, C., Hutchinson, J., Miller-Saunders, K.M., and Hawkins, T. 2024. Marine Risk Assessment for Natural-Origin West Coast Vancouver Island Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus tschawytscha). Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. 3603: ix + 308 p.

The Marine Risk Assessment also identified risks to later life stages during the time they are rearing in northern waters and during their return migration. The highest risks to these later life stages included loss of genetic diversity as result of mixing with hatchery reared fish, higher fishery exploitation on older age classes and predation by pinnipeds and salmon sharks.

Brown et al. (DFO) provided a summary of the principal factors limiting the productivity and survival by life stage of natural-origin WCVI Chinook salmon (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of factors that potentially limit natural origin-WCVI Chinook during major life stages (interactions with climate possible at all stages). From Brown et al. (under review).

Life Stage	Limiting Factors and Mechanisms
Adult upstream migration	• High water temperatures leading to delayed migration. • Low and variable river discharge leading to delayed migration.
Adult spawning	• High flows result in unstable spawning gravel, bed load movement, scour, and sedimentation, all of which reduce spawning success. • Changing demographics: small females dig shallower redds and produce fewer eggs than larger ones. • Genetic input from hatchery fish, particularly hatchery strays, on natural spawning grounds can lead to diminishing genetic and demographic diversity, which reduce fitness of subsequent generations.
Egg incubation and fry emergence	• High winter peak flows cause further scouring, which results in further egg displacement. • Reduced habitat and water quality. • Predation on eggs and fry by aquatic insects and fish.
In-river rearing	• Spring/early summer droughts move river margins away from riparian vegetation, reduce rearing habitat, fish growth and survival and time spent in freshwater, leading to increased reliance on estuary habitats for rearing. • Freshwater pathogens and toxin exposures. • Habitat degradation (primarily logging related).
Estuarine rearing and first marine winter	• Carry-over effects from freshwater related to smolt size and readiness, freshwater pathogen loads, and toxin exposures lead to reduced survival. • Changing river discharge patterns leading to increased sediment deposition and larger flows that reduce habitat complexity and availability, resulting in reduced survival. • Phenological mismatches between prey availability and smolt migration timing. • Competition with larger hatchery smolts and juveniles for prey. • Predation by birds, fish, and seals. • Exposure to pathogens, parasites (e.g. sea lice), toxin contaminants, and harmful algal biotoxins.
Later marine residence (1–5 years)	• Interspecific competition with hatchery salmon and other salmon species for limited prey. • Demographic declines in size-at-age and age-at-maturity driven by size-selective natural and fishery mortality.
Return migration to WCVI natal rivers	• Predation, primarily by marine mammals such as seals and sea lions that exploit Chinook at key geographical bottlenecks, such as river mouths.

In summary, the Freshwater and Marine Risk Assessments identified the key factors potentially limiting productivity of WCVI and both freshwater and early marine life stages were determined to be key stages where mortalities were high and preventing rebuilding. In general, confidence in scoring was low to moderate for many of the factors assessed during the Marine Risk Assessment and significant knowledge gaps were identified. Based on the high risk in the early marine life stages the '**Follow the Fish**' program was initiated to track key Chinook populations from WCVI rivers through their first-year rearing in marine waters.

Photo: Eiko Jones

Advent of the Follow the Fish Program

To address the knowledge and data gaps, and to further our understanding of the limiting factors affecting WCVI Chinook, a suite of projects under the banner "Follow the Fish" (FtF) were developed. This 3-year collaborative program is funded under DFO's **Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative (PSSI)**. The objective of the program is to develop improved understanding of the distribution in space and time of juvenile Chinook populations in the sounds and coastal waters along WCVI and the environmental stressors they encounter during this important growth phase.

Photo: Eiko Jones

Ha'oom fisheries crew microtrolling for juvenile Chinook.

Many coastal surveys have been conducted along WCVI over the years, but only a few have sampled in shallower areas within the sounds off the West Coast, where ocean-type Chinook may reside for up to their first year at sea. Characterizing environmental variables of these nearshore ecosystems in addition to the health and condition of residing Chinook salmon is critical to understanding which factors may be limiting survival. To address data gaps, in 2020 a highly collaborative assessment program in nearshore areas within Sounds on the WCVI was piloted to capture juvenile Chinook salmon in their first winter at sea using microtrolling technology. Microtrolling is the use of miniaturized trolling gear to capture juvenile Chinook. Building on the success of these surveys, the integrated and interdisciplinary Follow the Fish program was initiated in 2023 to provide urgently needed information for effective conservation and rebuilding of WCVI Chinook salmon populations.

Partnerships

The Follow the Fish program has been developed with and relies upon strong and extensive collaborations between DFO, WCVI First Nations, academic and NGO partners (e.g. the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council) to survey Chinook along the WCVI. Data and knowledge created though the different partner-led projects will directly contribute to WCVI Chinook rebuilding plans and make a substantial contribution towards meeting the objectives of the Follow the Fish program. See the list of collaborators on page 12.

Objectives of the Follow the Fish Program

The overall objective of the FtF program is to:

Identify and assess key biological and environmental factors in freshwater, estuarine, and nearshore marine environments which are limiting the productivity of WCVI natural origin Chinook salmon.

Sub objectives of the program are to:

1. Improve the confidence in rating risk associated with key limiting factors, and inform knowledge gaps;
2. Better resolve the highest risk factors, potential causal mechanisms and options to mitigate key risks to WCVI natural Chinook; and
3. Inform rebuilding of WCVI Chinook with mitigation actions that have the highest chance of success.

Photo: Mitch Miller

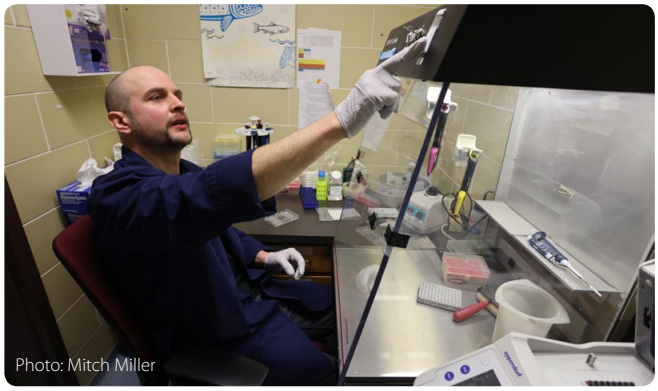
A Life Cycle Approach

The Follow the Fish program aims to track WCVI origin Chinook throughout their life cycle. Table 2 below (Brown et al. DFO, under review) shows the various life stages of WCVI Chinook and the ecosystem units they inhabit. Studies under FtF are associated with life cycle stages 1-6 and 12. Surveys to capture juvenile salmon and characterize the environment are carried out in-river, in estuaries and nearshore marine waters to follow fish throughout these life cycle stages.

DFO technician taking samples from caught Chinook during purse seining in Barkley Sound.

Table 2. Life cycle stages of WCVI Chinook salmon and the ecosystem units they inhabit. From Brown et al. (DFO, under review).

Ecosystem Units	Life Cyle Stage
Estuary / River	**1.** Adult return to estuary and river mouth
River	**2.** Adult spawners
River	**3.** Eggs Incubating
River	**4.** In-river post-hatch fry rearing
River / Estuary	**5.** Fry/Smolts out migration
WCVI Marine	**6.** Juvenile first marine year
WCVI - Central BC Marine	**7.** Juvenile second marine year
North BC Marine	**8.** Age 2 migrating north
North Pacific	**9.** Ages 3-6 rearing in the North Pacific
WCVI Marine	**10.** Return migration along WCVI
WCVI Marine	**11.** Adult return to estuary.
Estuary and In-river	**12.** Adult return to estuary — river mouth / pre-spawn



DFO scientist preparing a PCR-clean DNA workstation to amplify salmon DNA from water samples from the West Coast of Vancouver island.

Goals of Freshwater Follow the Fish Projects

These projects are focused on furthering our understanding of priority freshwater risks and knowledge gaps including quality of spawning and rearing habitats, sources of habitat degradation, and prevalence and impacts of redd scour. Several projects are led by DFO, and several are led by collaborators including Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, Hupačasath First Nation, Ditidaht First Nation, Huu-ay-aht First Nation, Pacheedaht First Nation, Ahousaht First Nation, LGL, Redd Fish Restoration, UBC and the Province. Project goals are as follows:

Projects Related to Understanding Freshwater Environments

- Fill in gaps identified in past habitat assessments, primarily related to water quality and conditions experienced by juvenile and returning adult salmon.
- Carry out studies to determine the level and impacts of redd scour on the Tranquil, Sarita and San Juan Rivers.

Projects Related to WCVI Chinook in Freshwater

- Assess the size, diet, condition, abundance, hatchery/wild ratios, and outmigration timing of juvenile Chinook on the Sarita, San Juan and Bedwell Rivers.
- Using otolith microchemistry on juvenile and adult Chinook, assess size-specific survival trends in juvenile Chinook and returning adults and investigate juvenile habitat usage.

DFO technician using a portable turbidity meter to measure water turbidity.

Goals of Early Marine Follow the Fish Projects

Most of the FtF projects are focused on the early marine life stage of Chinook, with surveys undertaken to catch juvenile Chinook and characterize the environments they reside in. Projects aimed at characterizing the distribution and health and condition of WCVI Chinook are achieved through various salmon surveys in rivers, estuarine and nearshore marine waters along the WCVI. Local WCVI Chinook stocks are caught and sampled through year-round catch surveys.

Projects are highly collaborative, and along with DFO, there are many partners working on focused studies including Hupačasath First Nation, Ditidaht First Nation, Huu-ay-aht First Nation, Pacheedaht First Nation, LGL, NGOs such as the Pacific Salmon Foundation, and many others.

There are many additional projects carried out simultaneously and/or in the same regions to examine water quality, ecosystem factors and stressors in the marine environment. Project goals are as follows:

Projects Related to Understanding Early Marine Environments

- Improve our baseline knowledge of environmental conditions in WCVI's fjords by establishing a Clayoquot Sound CTD Monitoring Program in collaboration with the local First Nations and other organizations to collect information on water temperatures, salinity, nutrients, chlorophyll and dissolved oxygen.
- Use this information to further the development of a coupled physical-biogeochemical high-resolution ocean model for the west coast of Vancouver Island.
- Contribute to the maintenance of the network of weather stations needed to support the ocean model.

Projects Related to Understanding the Early Marine Ecosystem

- Assess the status and yearly trends of krill populations and determine how ocean conditions influence interannual trends and the seasonal cycle of krill distribution and abundance to fill a major knowledge gap regarding krill which is an important prey item for juvenile salmon in both Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds.
- Assess the abundance and seasonal patterns of zooplankton, juvenile salmon, and forage species (e.g. herring) in coastal areas using acoustic monitoring methods to provide insight into distributional patterns, migration timing and prey availability for Chinook through time.
- Characterize the community composition of the environment that salmon reside in during their first year by analyzing eDNA in water samples collected along WCVI.


Photo: Eiko Jones

Photo by Kelly Young

Plankton samples collected in Barkley Sound.

Projects Related to Understanding Fish Distribution & Condition

- Assess the distribution of WCVI juvenile salmon in coastal areas both in time and space.
- Characterize the relative rates of growth and diet of WCVI juvenile Chinook during their first marine year.
- Contrast wild and hatchery origin WCVI Chinook distribution, diet and growth.
- Investigate the health of juvenile Chinook by looking at their stress and infectious agent profiles in freshwater, estuary, and marine environments using the salmon Fit-Chip tool.[6]

Projects Related to Understanding Environmental Stressors

- Assess the current and future risk posed by harmful algal biotoxins to WCVI Chinook salmon by monitoring biotoxins in their habitat to establish seasonal and interannual trends, and in their tissues and prey to determine pathways and levels of exposure linked to these trends.
- Characterize and rank contaminants of concern in WCVI juvenile Chinook salmon and assess contaminant-related health effects, and the most likely pathway(s) of exposure to contaminants of most concern in WCVI juvenile Chinook.

Additionally, the Follow the Fish project aims to identify good practices for considering Indigenous Knowledge into rebuilding plans and is working to identify reference points and rebuilding targets for Pacific salmon by pairing Indigenous knowledge systems with Western science within a knowledge co-production model.

6. The Salmon Fit-Chip is a genomic tool that analyzes a salmon's gill tissue to assess its health. It can identify stressors that affect salmon, including parasites, climate change, and other environmental conditions.

Salmon Surveys

Wild and hatchery origin Chinook salmon are followed through their outmigration from hatcheries and natal rivers, into the estuary, and into nearshore marine waters using various catch surveys spanning from Sooke Basin to Quatsino Sound along the WCVI. These surveys utilize rotary screw traps, beach seine, purse seine, and microtrolling methods to capture juvenile salmon. Captured Chinook are sampled to assess indices of health and condition using both non-lethal and lethal sampling of tissues alongside collection of environmental indices for a comprehensive approach to examining factors that may be limiting salmon survival (Figure 3). Particular focus is on the south-west Vancouver Island Chinook key indicators (San Juan, Nitinat, Sarita, Stamp, Bedwell).

Juvenile Chinook caught by microtrolling.

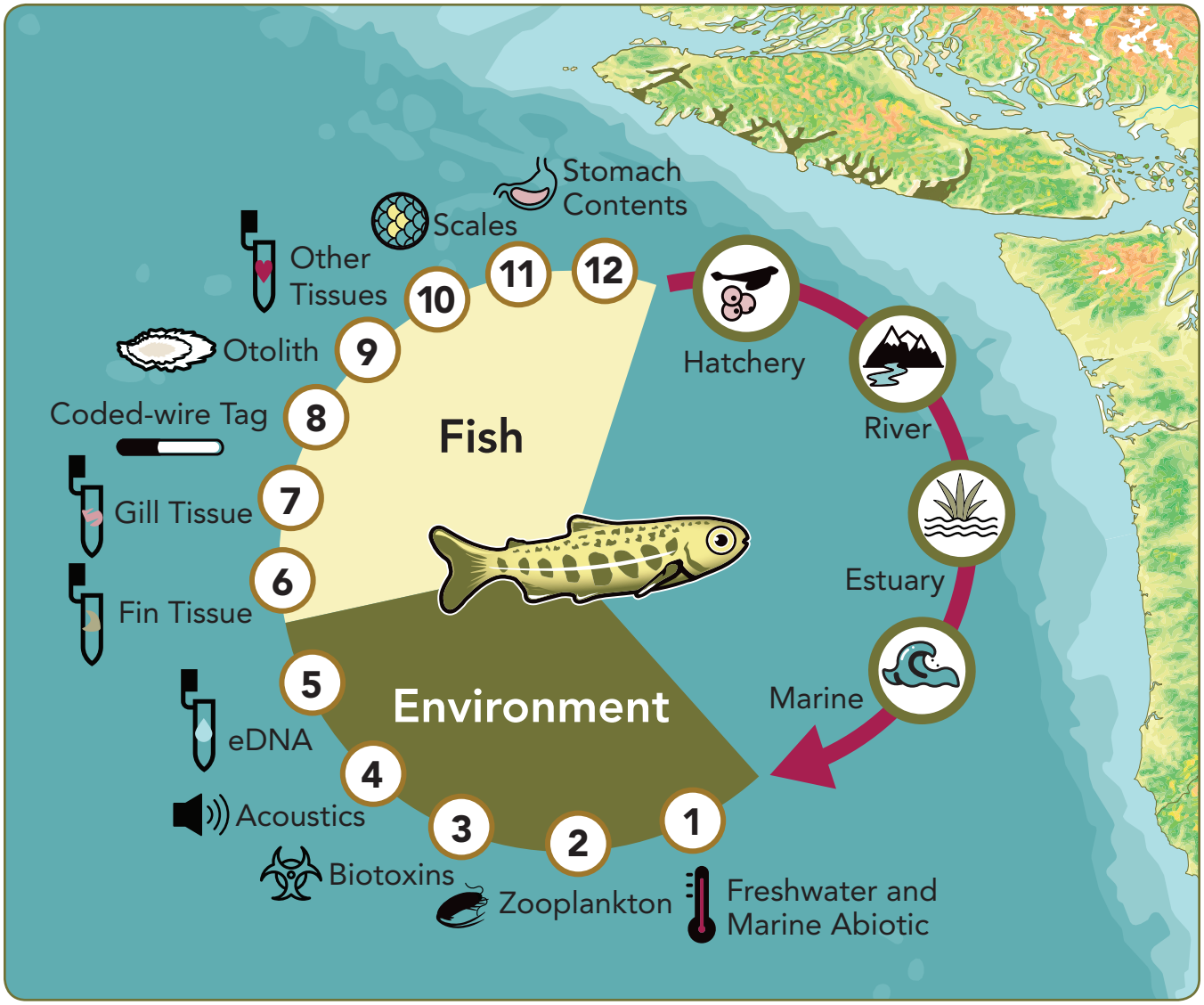


Figure 3. Graphical abstract of the Follow the Fish research program that includes sampling of Chinook salmon and the environments they reside in along the WCVI. Numbered items are described on the next page.

Legend for Figure 3— Research Components are:

1. **Abiotic variables** (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity) are measured in select freshwater river systems alongside an assessment of sediment transport and salmon redd scour. Abiotic variables are also measured in marine waters during salmon capture surveys along the WCVI and during various surveys in fjords along the WCVI.
2. **Zooplankton** surveys take place in Barkley Sound from February through November annually and opportunistically during surveys along the WCVI to evaluate abundance and timing of these key prey.
3. **Biotoxins** are assessed from water samples collected in Barkley Sound during the DFO zooplankton surveys, and from (non PSSI) Clayoquot Sound farms.
4. **Acoustic moorings** are deployed in Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds to characterize distributional patterns of juvenile Chinook salmon and their prey.
5. **Environmental DNA (eDNA)** sampling is carried out along the WCVI where salmon capture surveys are completed to identify the species compositions of salmon and their predators, prey, competitors, and pathogens; evaluate key elements in salmon ecosystems associated with the health and condition of fish captured in surveys; and to provide higher frequency sampling to assess shifting prey-pathogen-predator fields in ecosystems inhabited by salmon.
6. **Fin tissues** are collected non-lethally from caught Chinook salmon during all salmon surveys along the WCVI to identify stock of origin using genetic stock identification methods.
7. **A non-lethal gill tissue** sample also is collected to inform health status of fish gained through application of salmon Fit-Chips that provide information on environmental stress (e.g. low oxygen, temperature stress), disease (e.g. gill inflammation, immune activation), likelihood of imminent mortality, and pathogen exposure (to viruses, bacteria, fungal and protozoan parasites). Gill tissue is used to measure biotoxins and assess the exposure of Chinook to harmful algal biotoxins during their first year at sea.
8. **Coded-wire tags** are removed where present from a subset of caught Chinook that are lethally sampled to determine stock of origin.
9. **Otoliths (ear bones)** are removed from lethal samples to assess the size of Chinook smolts at ocean entry and to assess size-specific trends in survival and estuary residence time using otolith microchemistry measurements.
10. **Other tissues** (muscle, liver, kidney, spleen, brain, heart) are taken from lethal samples to measure, characterize and monitor contaminants and biotoxins in Chinook salmon and assess indices of health and condition.
11. **Scales** collected from lethal samples will inform an assessment of relative rate of growth across stocks throughout their first year at sea as a measure of salmon health and condition.
12. **Stomach contents** are examined from lethal samples to characterize prey availability and diet of caught Chinook salmon.

Photo: Keaton McCallum

Purse seining for juvenile Chinook.

Photo: Keaton McCallum

Next Steps

The Follow the Fish program will continue until March 2026. Over the course of this 3-year program many knowledge gaps are being addressed and new datasets created; linking of these datasets will enable a number of informative analyses to better understand the key risks to WCVI Chinook and to assess cumulative effects. The Follow the Fish team will focus on implementing analytical tools, mapping and modelling approaches, and use of conceptual diagrams, for example, to address the program goals and overarching synthesis questions. Datasets will be linked to better understand the key stressors and environmental factors associated with salmon health and survival.

Many different products and outputs will be created from this program, including newsletters to highlight different projects and findings to date, visual products such as story maps and ArcGIS dashboards, as well as technical reports, datasets and journal publications.

Potential Outcomes

Research through the Follow the Fish program should improve our understanding of the relationships between environmental and ecosystem conditions and WCVI natural and hatchery Chinook distribution, health, and mortality, especially during the early marine stages of the life cycle. It will inform major knowledge gaps and improve the confidence in rating risk associated with key limiting factors assessed during the Freshwater and Marine Risk Assessment processes, and help identify the causal mechanisms responsible for high risk limiting factors. Ultimately, the FtF program should be able to identify management measures that could improve productivity of WCVI Chinook in their freshwater and marine ecosystems.

It is hoped that the information from the Marine and Freshwater Risk Assessment processes as well as the Follow the Fish program can be used to re-build production of wild WCVI Chinook salmon through an ecosystem-based approach. This approach will consider risks to salmon across the life cycle stages, engage local communities and stakeholders and provide a foundation for long-term monitoring of WCVI Chinook.

Thank You to Our Collaborators

- Ahousaht First Nation
- Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre
- British Columbia Conservation Foundation
- Cedar Coast Field Station
- Cermaq Canada
- Charter Tofino
- Ditidaht First Nation
- Ehattesaht/Chinehkint First Nation
- Ha'oom Fisheries Society
- Hesquiaht First Nation
- Hupačasath First Nation
- Huu-ay-aht First Nations
- Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h' First Nations
- LGL Limited
- Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society
- M.C. Wright and Associates Ltd.
- Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nations
- Namgis First Nation
- Nature Trust of British Columbia
- Nootka Sound Watershed Society
- Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council
- Nuchatlaht Tribe
- Pacheedaht First Nation
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Quatsino First Nation
- Redd Fish Restoration Society
- Simon Fraser University
- Snuneymuxw First Nation
- Thornton Creek Enhancement Society
- Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation
- Toquaht Nation
- Tseshaht First Nation
- T'Sou-ke Nation
- Uchucklesaht Tribe
- University of British Columbia
- University of Victoria
- Uu-a-thluk Fisheries,
- Yuułu?ił?ath Government

Photo: Eiko Jones

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