Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

PACIFIC SALMON OUTLOOK, PACIFIC REGION, 2026: PART I – PRELIMINARY OUTLOOKS

Canada

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide an 'outlook' of expected abundance of Pacific salmon in 2026 to inform the harvest planning process.
The Outlook provides either an expected abundance for those stocks with statistical forecasts or a categorical abundance expectation based on expert opinion.
The categorical outlook and the statistical forecast can be at the stock management unit, conservation unit or even finer level.

OUTLOOK FORMAT

The Outlook document contains:

1. Conservation Unit (CU) groupings with Stock Management Units (SMUs) to better inform decision-making consistent with *Fisheries Act* and Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) requirements.
2. Consolidated SMUs with statistical forecasts.
3. SMUs without statistical forecasts which include a standardized interpretation of SMU status in relation to Outlook categories.
4. Information on SMU biological benchmarks and management references (where defined) for additional context.

BACKGROUND

Stock Management Units

For the 2026 Outlook, SMUs are used to describe stock aggregates that inform the development of Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs) for salmon. This is required for implementation of the fisheries-related revisions to the *Fisheries Act*.

For Pacific salmon, the working definition of a Stock Management Unit is a 'group of one or more conservation units (CUs) that are managed together with the objective of achieving a joint status', meaning harvest control rules would apply to the aggregate, at least in a coarse sense.

Use of SMUs does not preclude considerations related to conserving CU-level diversity but rather is a practical aggregation of CUs for harvest planning and reporting purposes. That is, it is the scale at which harvest management plans, or better, management and assessment procedures, are developed in IFMPs. In many cases, elements of the Precautionary Approach are implemented at finer scales of organization within a SMU.

Biological and Management References

The purpose of a stock forecast or Outlook is to provide information to harvest managers to potentially adjust harvest plans according to the expected stock abundance. Ideally, in that regard, the status of the SMU (or sub-unit) is assessed against specified limits and targets, and pre-defined harvest strategies (or harvest control rules) are in place that define the actions

required to meet targets and avoid limits. Therefore, where biological benchmarks and/or limit reference points are defined for CUs or SMUs, respectively, they are noted in the Outlook/Forecast tables below. Similarly, if management targets are in place, they are identified. Lack of these references is a gap and work is on-going to develop methods and complete the analyses to define these references. The summary below describes how these biological and management references are applied and interpreted.

Wild Salmon Policy and the Precautionary Approach: Lower Biological Benchmarks and Limit Reference Points

For implementation of the *Wild Salmon Policy* (WSP; DFO 2005), the status of Pacific salmon CUs are assessed against biological benchmarks. These benchmarks are specific, science-based quantitative values that aim to delineate the three population status zones (further described below). The lower biological benchmark allows for substantial buffer between it and the level of abundance at which the stock would be considered at risk of extinction and is generally estimated as S_{GEN}. The upper biological benchmark delineates the 'amber' from 'green' WSP status zone and is generally estimated as 0.80 S_{MSY}. For more data-limited systems (i.e., where it is not possible to numerically estimate stock-recruit parameters), proxies for lower and upper biological benchmarks may be applied. For example, the lower and upper biological benchmarks are estimated as 25th and 60th percentiles of the long-term observed spawning abundance.

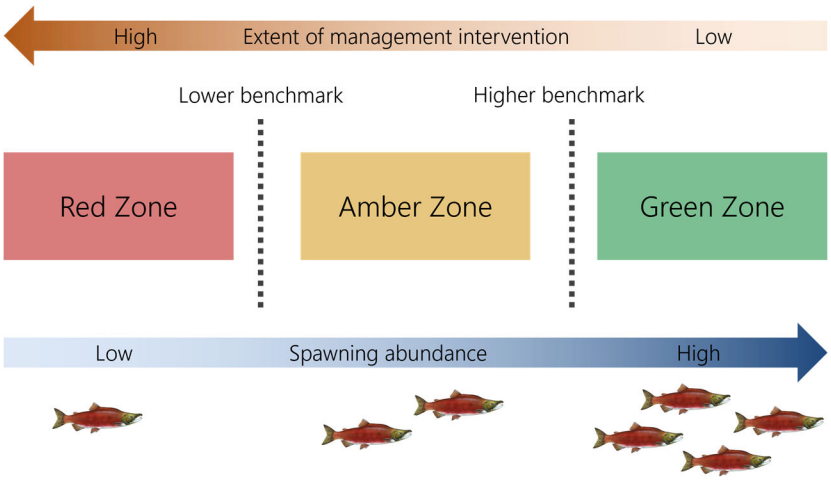


Figure 1. Benchmarks and biological status zones for Conservation Unit assessments (DFO 2005).

Under DFO's Precautionary Approach (PA), the SMU limit reference point (LRP) is a biologically-defined reference that delineates the 'critical zone' from the 'cautious zone' for harvest management. It represents the status below which serious harm is occurring to the stock. Additionally, there may also be resultant impacts to the ecosystem, associated species and a long-term loss of harvest opportunities.

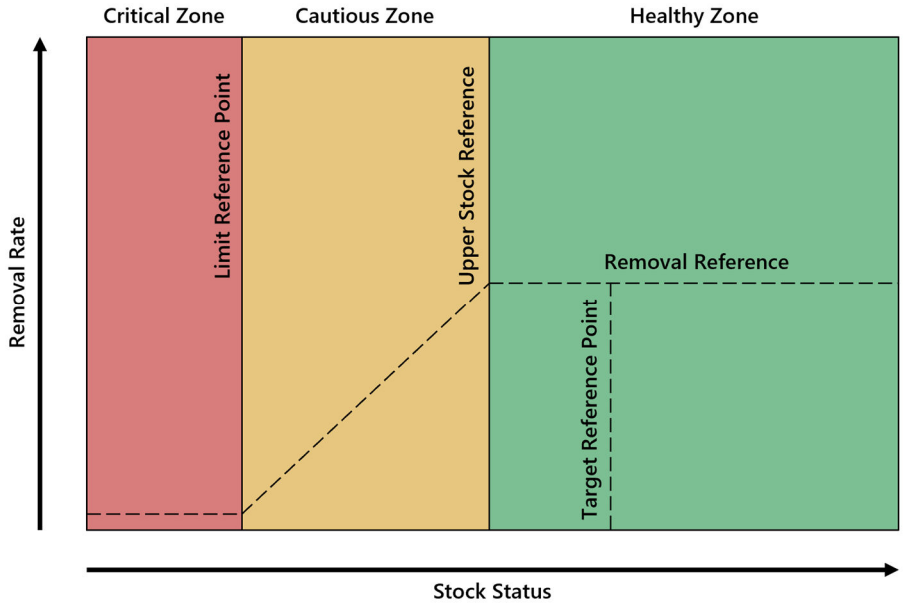


Figure 2. Schematic of a generalized harvest strategy under DFO's Precautionary Approach.

Given the intent is similar between the WSP and DFO's PA, it is practical to equate the SMU LRPs with lower biological benchmarks at the CU level. However, the WSP recognizes that serious harm to species occurs when CUs are depleted or lost. Therefore, to be consistent with the WSP, LRPs at the SMU scale should consider CU-scale biodiversity. Methodological approaches for defining LRPs are being developed to ensure CU-level biodiversity is considered for both data-rich and data-limited assessment systems.

Management Targets and Operational Control Points

While management targets or operational control points are often informed by biological benchmarks and stock-recruit reference points (also known as limit reference points) , they also consider other objectives such as maximizing sustainable harvest, avoiding overfishing, maintaining stable access and opportunity, allocation objectives such as how catch is distributed among harvesters, etc. As such, they are tightly linked to the harvest strategy and fishery management measures.

In some cases, the management target may be a simple trigger such as when a 'surplus-to-escapement-target' harvest control rule is in place. In other cases, there may be multiple management targets (or operational control points) used to adjust the harvest control rule at different levels of abundance.

An SMU can be below its management target (and therefore subject to some level of harvest restriction as per the harvest control strategy), but well above levels that represent a serious conservation concern (i.e., the LRP or lower biological benchmark [LBB]). In other situations, an SMU may be well above its target but subject to harvest restrictions because the stock rears or co-migrates in mixed-stock fishing areas with other SMUs (or CUs) that are near or below their LRP (or LBB).

Stock Outlooks

Categorical Stock Outlooks

For the Preliminary Outlook and for those SMUs for which statistical forecasts are not produced, either because the SMU is not intensively managed and/or is more data limited, categorical 'Outlooks' are assigned. These Outlooks are based on expert opinions qualified with information from monitoring programs. For each stock grouping, an Outlook of expected spawning abundance is assigned based on a scale of 1 to 4.

For CUs or SMUs with references in place (i.e., either lower [LBB] and upper biological benchmarks [UBB] and/or lower reference points (LRPs) and upper stock references (USR) and target reference points (TRPs), these references are used to assign an Outlook category. For more data-limited CUs or SMUs (i.e. those without defined stock or management references), expected spawning abundance is compared to average or median abundance based on available information. SMUs for which there is insufficient data, Outlooks are noted as 'Data Deficient'.

Table 1. Definitions of Outlook categories used to classify expected spawning abundance for Conservation Units (CUs) and Stock Management Units (SMUs). For data-limited units, classifications are informed by percentiles of long-term observed abundance. Each category reflects relative abundance expectations to support status evaluation and harvest planning.

Outlook Category	Data-Limited CUs or SMUs	
	Category Definition	**Expected spawning abundance**
1	Well below average	<25th percentile
2	Below Average	25 to 40th percentile
3	Near Average	40 to 60th percentile
4	Abundant	>60th percentile
Data Deficient	Insufficient information	Unknown

RESULTS

YUKON TRANSBOUNDARY AREA

Sockeye

*Table 2. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for sockeye salmon (*Onchorhynchus nerka*) in the Yukon Transboundary area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
ALSEK SOCKEYE SALMON	This aggregate stock is dominated by lake and river type age 5 fish. Based on brood year escapements that were above average and stock-recruitment relations from historical records, an average run exceeding the upper end of the escapement goal range is expected.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	ALSEK SOCKEYE SALMON	Formal estimate to be produced by February 1, 2026	3
SMU	**Narrative**		

STIKINE SOCKEYE SALMON	2026 Outlook will meet escapement requirements and provide for harvest opportunities.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	STIKINE SOCKEYE SALMON	Sockeye forecast issued February 1, 2026; however, preliminary 2026 Outlook will meet escapement requirements and provide for harvest opportunities.	4
SMU	**Narrative**		
TAKU SOCKEYE SALMON	Based on stock-recruitment data, we anticipate the 2026 run will be near the 10-year average of 170,000 and well over the management objective of 58,000. This is an aggregate stock of lake and river type 4- and 5-year olds.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	TAKU SOCKEYE SALMON	Taku River sockeye salmon aggregate formal forecast will be available prior to the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) deadline of February 1, 2026.	4

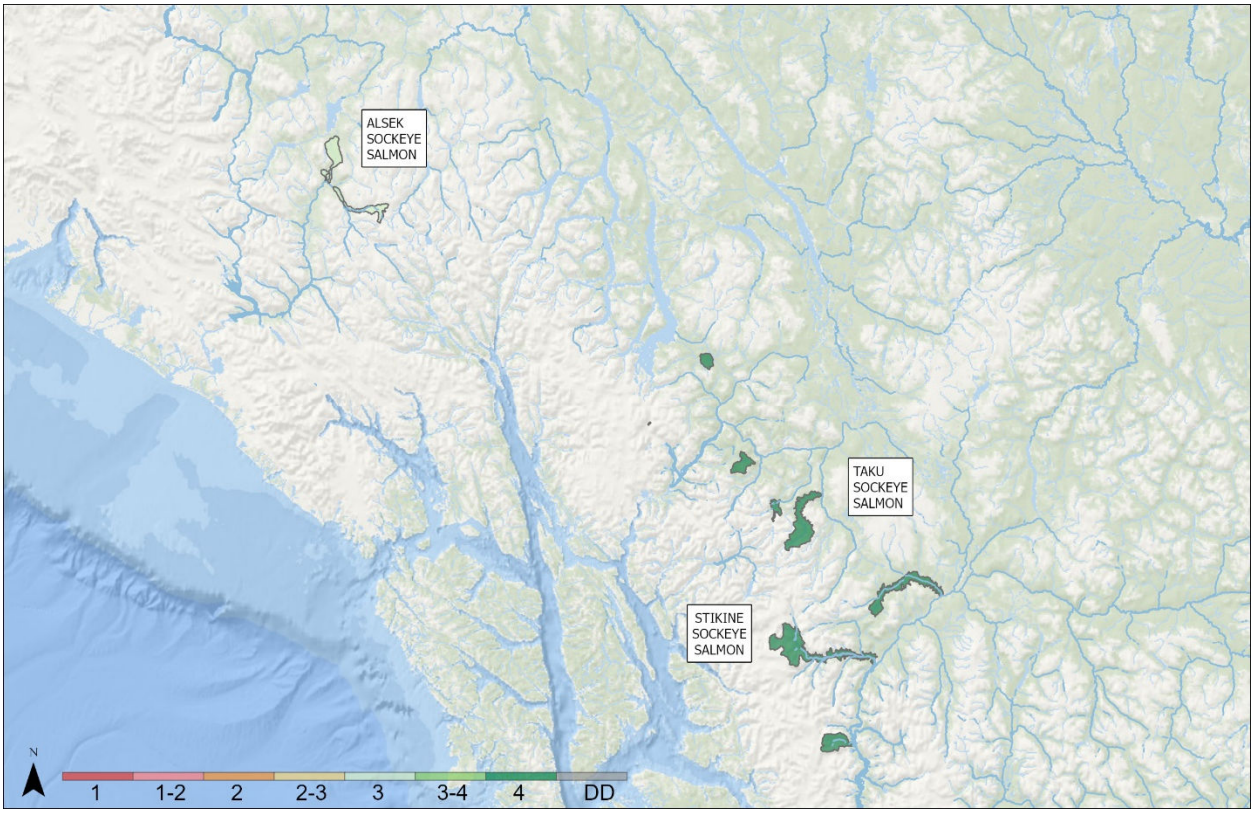


*Figure 3. Map of Outlooks for sockeye salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*) in the Yukon Transboundary area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Pink

*Table 3. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for pink salmon (*Onchorynchus gorbuscha*) in the Yukon Transboundary area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
TRANSBOUNDARY PINK SALMON	Data deficient		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	TRANSBOUNDARY PINK SALMON	-	Data Deficient

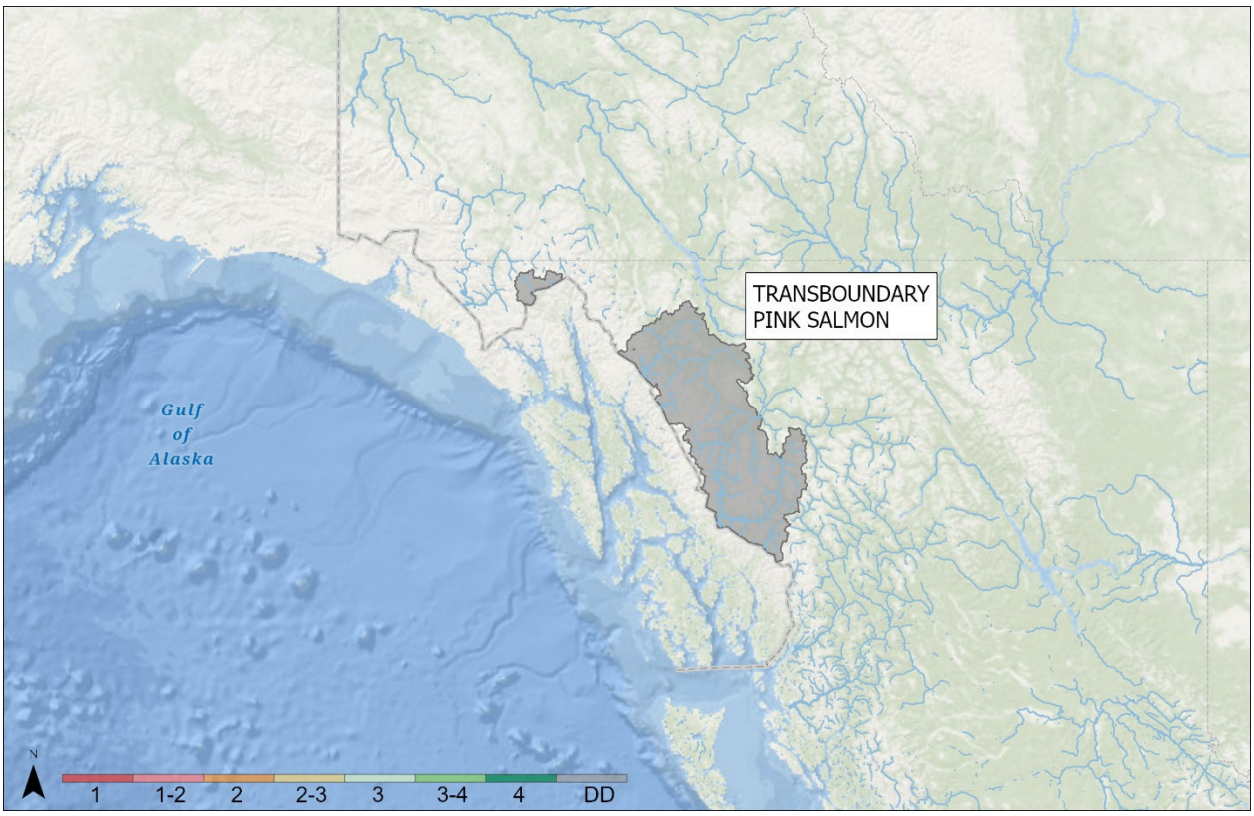


*Figure 4. Map of Outlooks for pink salmon (*Onchorynchus gorbuscha*) in the Yukon Transboundary area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Chinook

*Table 4. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawyscha*) in the Yukon Transboundary area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**

ALSEK CHINOOK SALMON	Alsek CU (CK-67) includes 5 rivers (Alsek, Blanchard, Goat, Klukshu and Takhanne). Alsek Chinook are stream type dominated by 5-year-olds. Based on brood year escapement being above average and near the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) target range and recent sibling survival data, an average run within the escapement goal range is expected.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	ALSEK CHINOOK SALMON	Forecast for 2026 to be developed by February 1, 2026.	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
PORCUPINE CHINOOK SALMON	There is no forecast available for this SMU and it does not have an escapement goal associated with its management. The Porcupine Chinook SMU contains three CUs, one of which is data deficient. This CU (Salmon Fork CU) may only contain a very small spawning population, if at all. Assessment on the Porcupine River captures migrating fish to the other two CUs. This project started ~10 years ago, and with continued operation, we are developing a forecast for this SMU. However, passage at this assessment site has dropped from an average of 4,000 (2014–2019) to 400 (2021–2025).		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	PORCUPINE CHINOOK SALMON	Data Deficient	1
SMU	**Narrative**		
STIKINE CHINOOK SALMON	An aggregate including 2 CUs. The 2026 run is forecast to be slightly above the 10-year average of 12,100 fish and within the escapement goal range of 14,000–28,000. Stikine Chinook are stream type, dominated by 5- and 6-year-olds		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	STIKINE CHINOOK SALMON	16,704	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
TAKU CHINOOK SALMON	The aggregate Taku River terminal return of large (>659 mm mideye-to-fork [MEF] length) Chinook salmon for 2026 is forecasted to be 33,200 (95% prediction intervals: 23,000–43,300). This is based on a sibling expansion method. As usual, the return will be dominated by 5-year-old fish. This forecast is well above the recent ten-year average return.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	TAKU CHINOOK SALMON	33,200 (95% prediction intervals: 23000-43300)	3 to 4
SMU	**Narrative**		
YUKON CHINOOK SALMON	The forecast model used for the Yukon Chinook SMU is informative to their entry into the Yukon River and does not currently account for en route mortality during their 2,000 km migration through Alaska, in advance of their entry into Canada and the Yukon Chinook SMU. In recent years (2019–2023), Chinook en route mortality prior to reaching the SMU was substantial (~30–50%). However, in 2024 and 2025, the estimated mortality has dropped and if similar conditions continue into 2026, we anticipate the forecast model to provide a good indication of return to the SMU. The Interim Management Escapement Goal for this SMU was 42,500 to 55,000 until 2024 when a rebuilding target of 71,000 was approved for seven years, in addition to a closure to all targeted in river Chinook fishing in the Alaska and Canada. These actions were implemented along with several others which are intended to support		

	the preservation and rebuilding of Yukon River Chinook Salmon. Estimates of Canadian-origin Yukon River Chinook Salmon (Yukon Chinook SMU) in the 1980s and 1990s routinely exceeded 150,000, but since 2000 there has been a relatively steady decline in annual abundance with the lowest five years on record from 2021–2025 (5-year average of 22,000). The 2026 forecast for Yukon Chinook SMU will be available in the coming weeks and it is anticipated to be similar to returns seen in 2024 and 2025, ~25,000.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	YUKON CHINOOK SALMON	Forecast currently unknown.	1

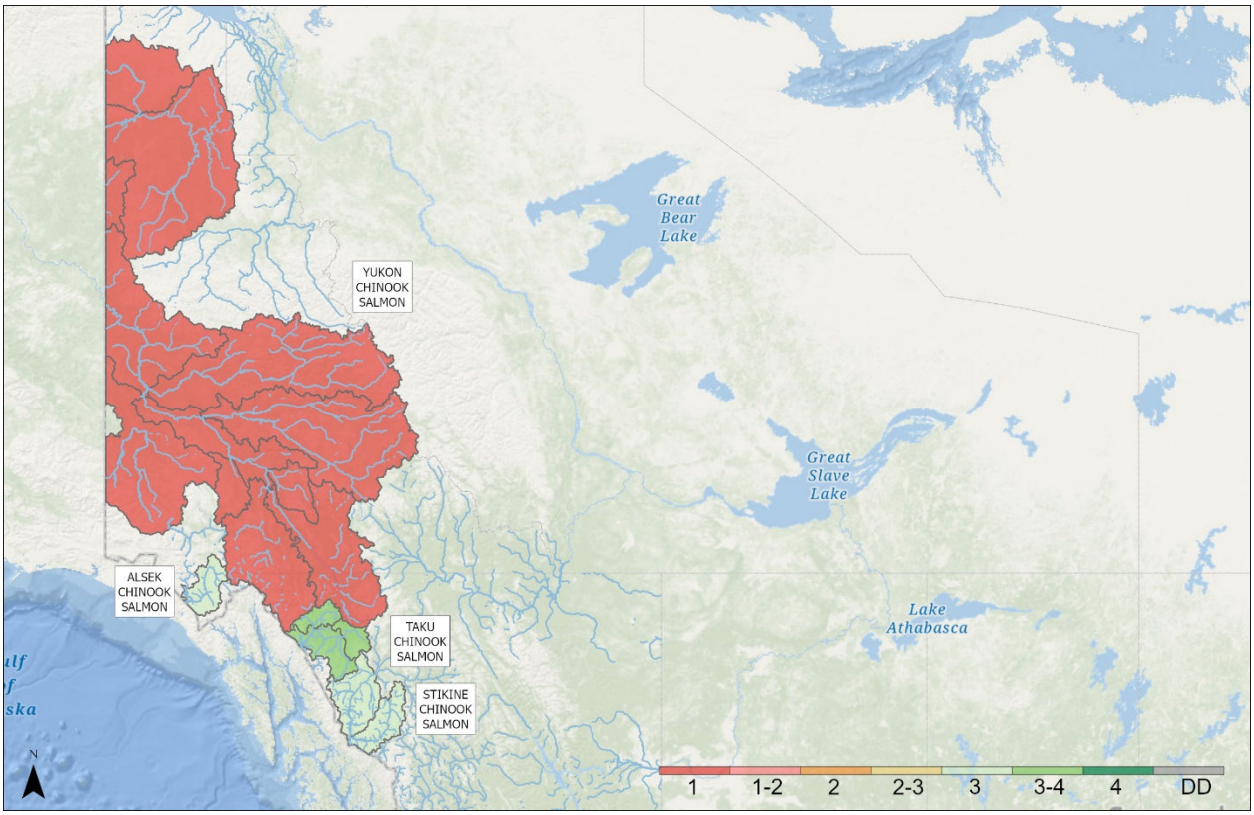


*Figure 5. Map of Outlooks for Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawyscha*) in the Yukon Transboundary area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Coho

*Table 5. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the Yukon Transboundary area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
ALSEK COHO SALMON	Alsek CU (CO-45). Only a partial weir count is carried out. Run is dominated by 4-year-olds. Brood year counts were below average.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	ALSEK COHO SALMON	No formal estimate is produced for Alsek River Coho.	3

SMU	Narrative		
PORCUPINE COHO SALMON	There is no forecast or data to inform this SMU.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	PORCUPINE COHO SALMON	Data Deficient	Data Deficient
SMU	**Narrative**		
STIKINE COHO SALMON	2026 preliminary Outlooks suggest escapement requirements will be achieved and a surplus for harvest opportunities will be provided.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	STIKINE COHO SALMON	-	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
TAKU COHO SALMON	Based on preliminary smolt abundance in 2025, combined with recent smolt-to-adult survival rates, an average run above the management target of 70,000 is expected for 2026. The run is an even split of 3- and 4-year-olds.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	TAKU COHO SALMON	Formal forecast for Taku River coho salmon will be available prior to the PST deadline of February 1, 2026.	3

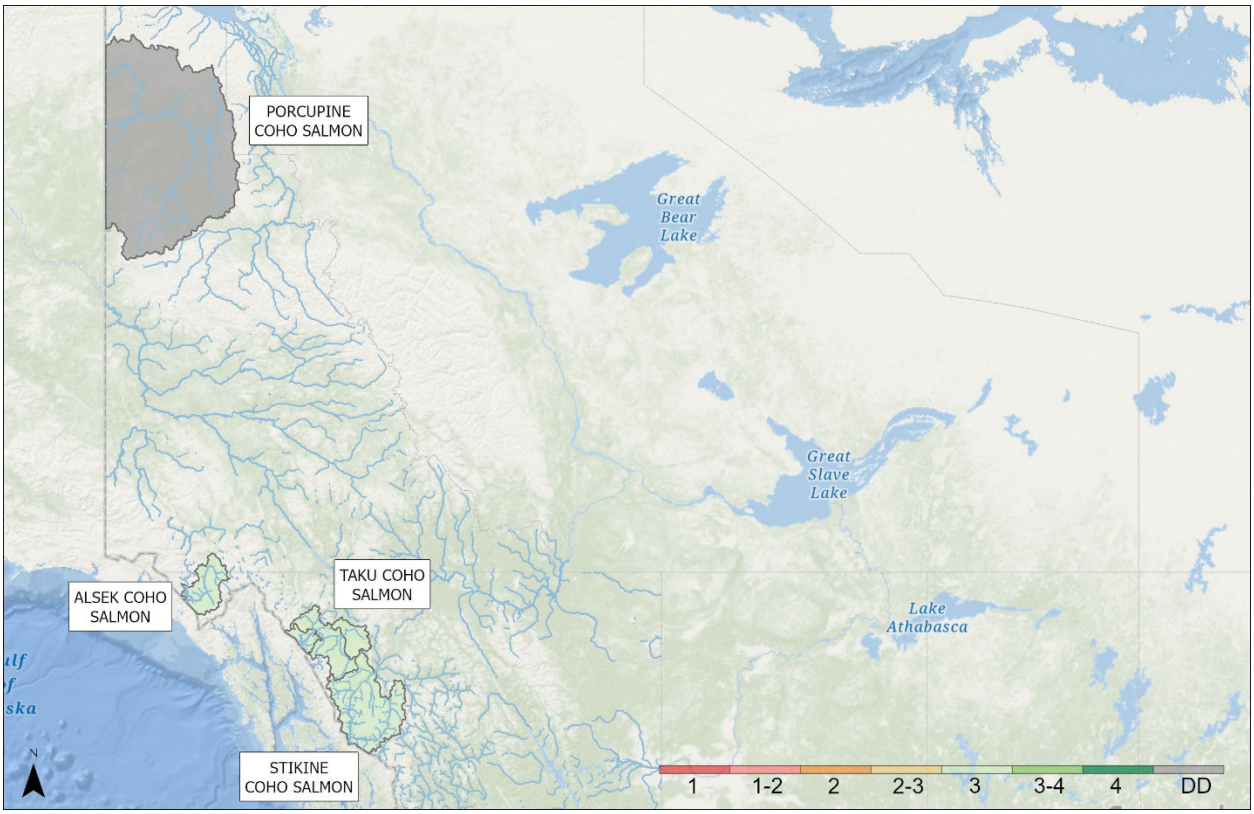


*Figure 6. Map of Outlooks for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the Yukon Transboundary area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Chum

*Table 6. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in the Yukon Transboundary area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
PORCUPINE CHUM SALMON	The Porcupine Chum Salmon SMU contains a single CU. The spawning escapement to this SMU is monitored at two sites: a sonar site ~50 km upstream of the Canada/US border (operational since 2011) and a weir/sonar site immediately downstream of their predominant spawning habitat in the SMU (operational since 1971). The weir is installed on the Fishing Branch River, a tributary of the upper Porcupine River, and management only includes an escapement goal for this stock, 22,000–49,000 fish. This escapement goal is currently under review, and a recommendation is expected in 2027. The estimated return of Porcupine Chum Salmon in 2025 was 11,918, including the Fishing Branch River component of 7,858. Since 2011, the estimated return to this SMU has averaged 25,000 and the long-term return to Fishing Branch River has averaged 43,000, so the 2025 return is well below average. The 2026 forecast is not yet known and will for formally accepted and available in March.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	PORCUPINE CHUM SALMON	Forecast currently unknown	1
SMU	**Narrative**		
TRANSBOUNDARY CHUM SALMON	Data deficient.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	TRANSBOUNDARY CHUM SALMON	-	Data Deficient
SMU	**Narrative**		
YUKON CHUM SALMON	The spawning escapement of Canadian-origin Yukon River mainstem Chum salmon (Yukon Chum Salmon SMU) in 2025 was the second lowest on record, at 19,574—only exceeding the record low return in 2024. The run is dominated by four-year-old fish. While chum productivity across the Yukon River has decreased dramatically since 2020, a prominent spawning population in the SMU has experienced a potential catastrophic environmental shift that may have resulted in a large reduction in spawning habitat. The current mainstem spawning escapement goal endorsed by the Yukon River Panel is 70,000–104,000 Chum salmon, which has been met every year between 2002 and2019. The escapement goal has not been met since 2020 and averages 21,000 between 2020 and 2025. The escapement goal is currently under review, with an updated recommendation expected in 2027. The 2026 forecast of Yukon Chum Salmon SMU is not yet available. This forecast is typically approved and available in March of each year. Coming off record low age 4 brood year returns, the 2025 return showed signs of improving productivity. If this continues into 2026, we may start to see subtle		

	improvements in the return, though it is anticipated to remain very low compared to pre-2020 returns, and likely within a similar range as recent years' returns.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	YUKON CHUM SALMON	Forecast currently unknown.	1

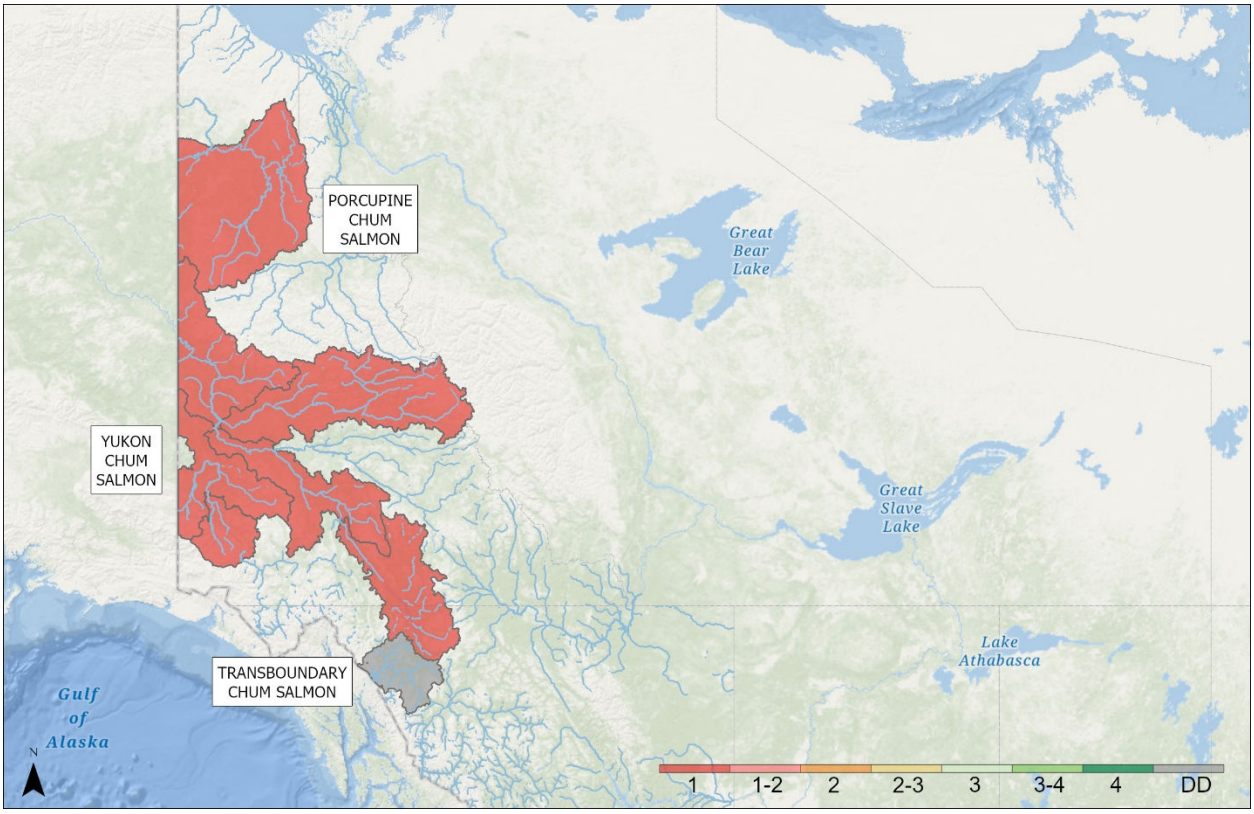


*Figure 7. Map of Outlooks for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in the Yukon Transboundary area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

NORTH COAST AREA

Sockeye

*Table 7. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for sockeye salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*) in the North Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	Narrative
CENTRAL COAST SOCKEYE SALMON	Information received for Atnarko sockeye (DFO) and several smaller Area 8 systems (Koeye, Namu, Kasjusdis, Hooknose). Data quality varies among streams. Returns for 2025 ranged from average to higher than (recent) average for most of these systems.

Resolution	Name	Forecast	Outlook
SMU	CENTRAL COAST SOCKEYE SALMON	None available	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
HAIDA GWAII SOCKEYE SALMON	Includes CUs in Area 1 and 2. Escapements for systems that were inspected ranged from average to higher than average, good returns for the largest systems within this Designatable Unit (DU).		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	HAIDA GWAII SOCKEYE SALMON	None available	3 to 4
SMU	**Narrative**		
NASS SOCKEYE SALMON	N/A		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	NASS SOCKEYE SALMON	243,000–1,066,000	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
RIVERS/SMITH SOCKEYE SALMON	As of December 18, 2025, 2025 escapement estimates are not available for either Rivers or Smith Inlet sockeye. Anecdotal reports suggest strong returns for Rivers Inlet sockeye relative to 2000-current time period.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	RIVERS/SMITH SOCKEYE SALMON	None available	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
SKEENA SOCKEYE SALMON	Lower than average returns expected for aggregate stock based on sibling forecast model. Very poor return of age-3s in 2025 predicts low return of age-4s for 2026.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	SKEENA SOCKEYE SALMON	729,000–3,288,000	2

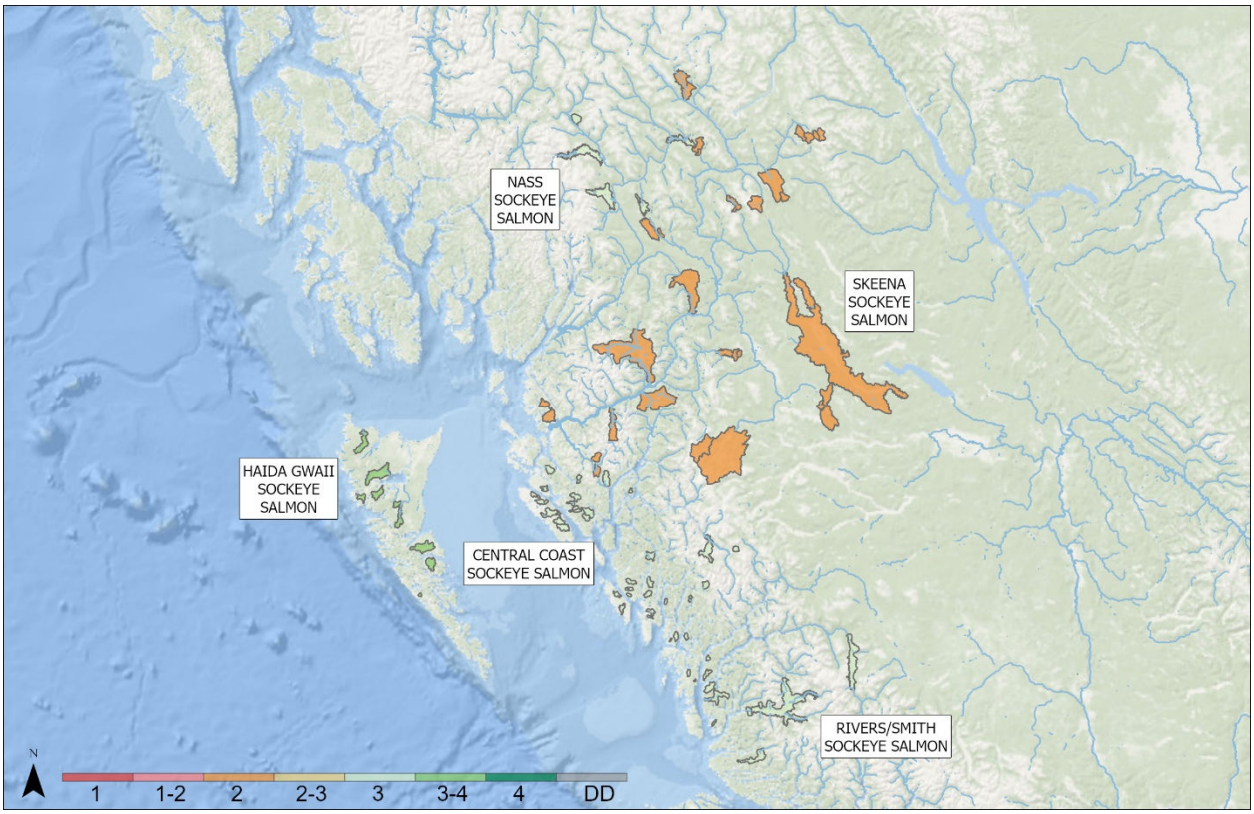


*Figure 8. Map of Outlooks for sockeye salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*) in the North Coast area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Pink

*Table 8. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for pink salmon (*Onchorynchus gorbuscha*) in the North Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
CENTRAL COAST PINK SALMON	Area 6, 7, and 8 Pink Salmon are forecasted to be abundant. Area 5, 9, and 10 are data deficient.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (aggregate)	HECATE LOWLANDS, HECATE STRAIT-FJORDS	-	4
Areas 9–10	Homathko-Klinaklini-Smith-Rivers-Bella Coola-Dean	-	Data Deficient
SMU	**Narrative**		
HAIDA GWAII PINK SALMON	Above average returns forecasted for Haida Gwaii East (2E) and data deficient for Haida Gwaii North and West.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	EAST HAIDA GWAII	-	4
CU (aggregate)	NORTH HAIDA GWAII, WEST HAIDA GWAII	-	Data Deficient

SMU	Narrative		
NASS PINK SALMON	Returns expected to be above average.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	NASS PINK SALMON	-	4
SMU	**Narrative**		
SKEENA PINK SALMON	-		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	SKEENA PINK SALMON	-	4

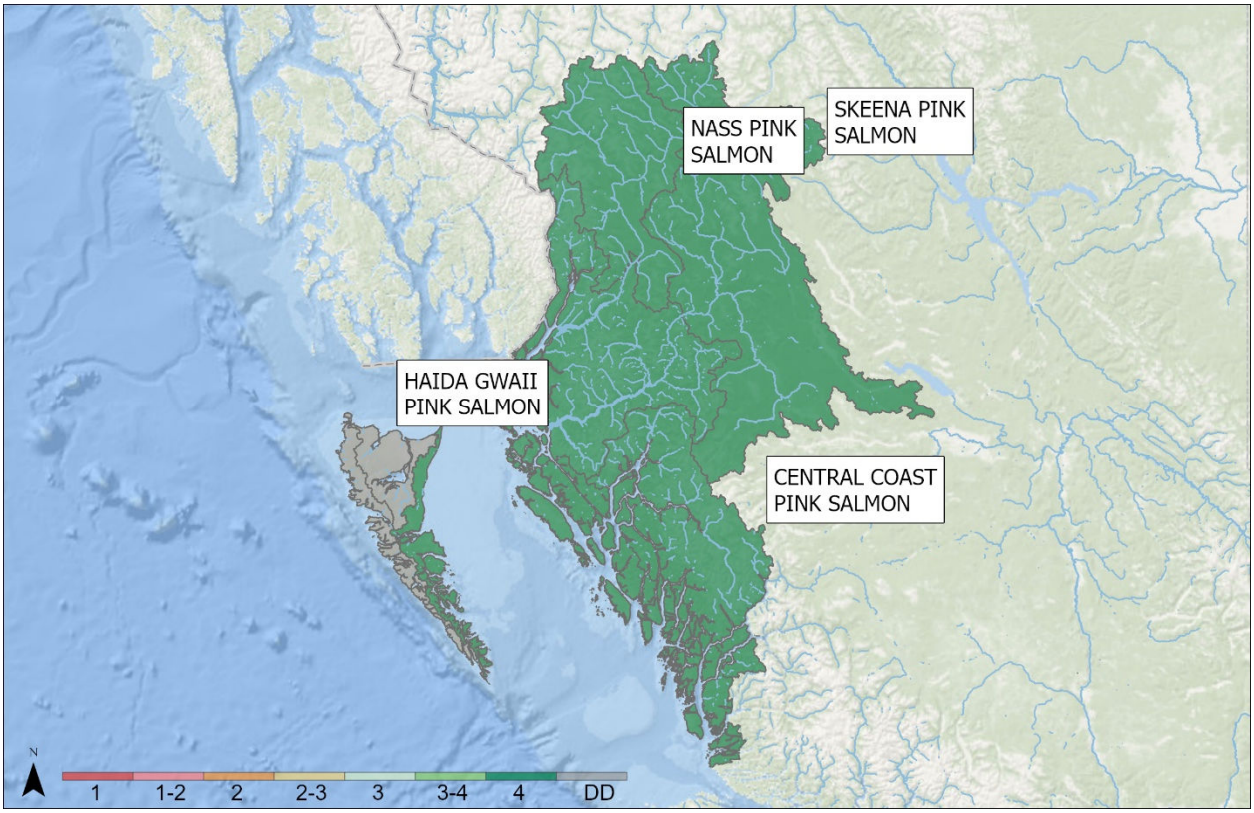


*Figure 9. Map of Outlooks for pink salmon (*Onchorynchus gorbuscha*) in the North Coast area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Chinook

*Table 9. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawyscha*) in the North Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	Narrative
CENTRAL COAST CHINOOK SALMON	Area 6: The Kitimat watershed is data deficient. Area 8: A 2025 escapement estimate is not yet available for the Atnarko River. Other rivers in Area 8 are data deficient.

	Areas 9 and 10: Owikeno tributary, Wannock River and Docee Chinook returns are data deficient. There are multi-species sonar assessments on both the Wannock and Docee rivers but estimates remain uncertain. Recent Chuckwalla and Kilbella rivers returns are below average based on recent trends.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	CENTRAL COAST CHINOOK SALMON	-	2
SMU	**Narrative**		
HAIDA GWAII CHINOOK SALMON	A multi-species sonar assessment program commenced on the Yakoun in 2021 but Chinook estimates remain uncertain.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	HAIDA GWAII CHINOOK SALMON	Data deficient	Data Deficient
SMU	**Narrative**		
NASS CHINOOK SALMON	The preliminary 2025 escapement estimate was above the escapement goal of 15,000 Chinook. The escapement goal has only been reached four times in the last fifteen years (2015, 2018, 2022, and 2015).		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	NASS CHINOOK SALMON	-	2
SMU	**Narrative**		
SKEENA CHINOOK SALMON	The 2025 Kitsumkalum River and Skeena aggregate escapement estimates are not yet available. Below average returns are expected due to low returns in 2019–2022.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	SKEENA CHINOOK SALMON	-	1 to 2

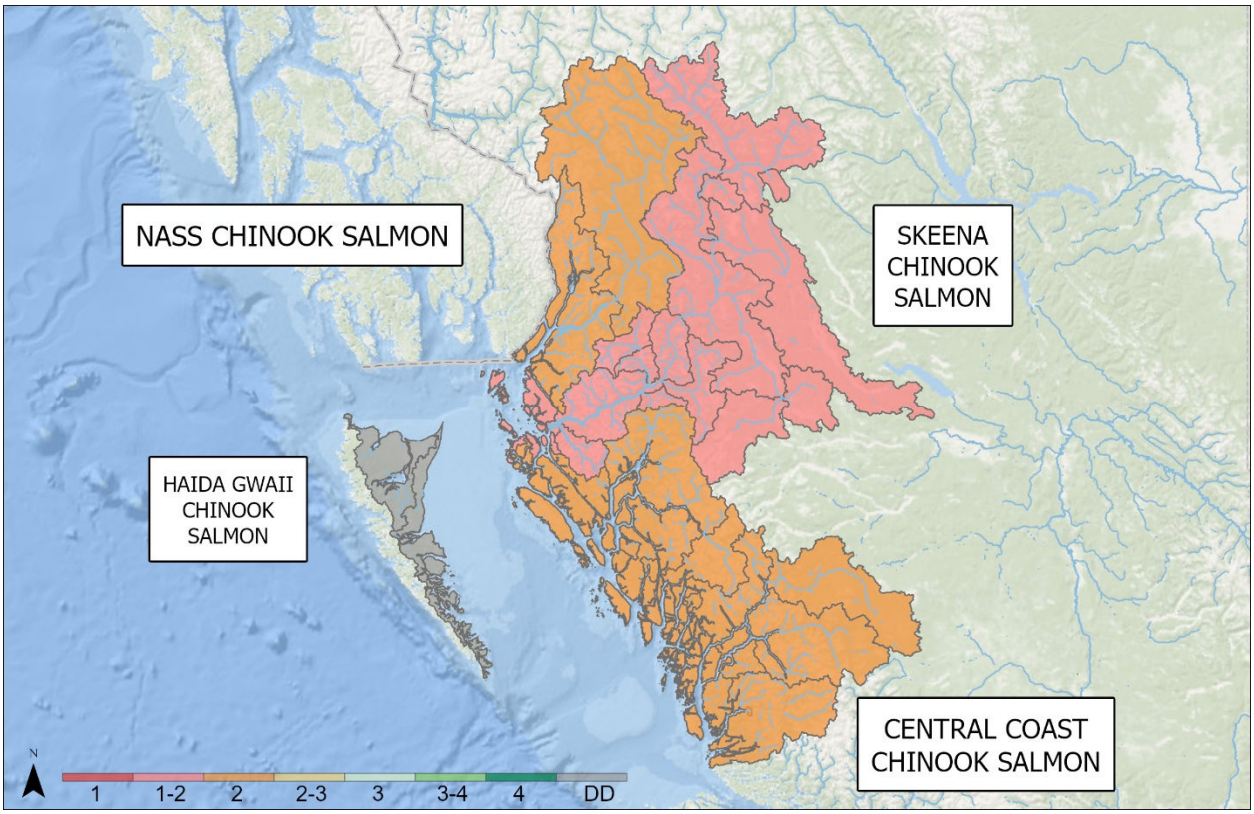


*Figure 10. Map of Outlooks for Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawyscha*) in the Yukon Transboundary area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Coho

*Table 10. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the North Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
CENTRAL COAST COHO SALMON	PFMA 6 Coho salmon are expected to be below average in 2026.		
CENTRAL COAST COHO SALMON	PFMAs 7–10 are data deficient.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
PFMA	CENTRAL COAST COHO SALMON	Even though the 2023 brood escapements were above average, 2024/2025 returns with a conservative Outlook suggests supporting a "like last year" approach.	2
PFMA	CENTRAL COAST COHO SALMON	PFMAs 7–10 are considered data deficient.	Data Deficient
SMU	**Narrative**		

HAIDA GWAII COHO SALMON	There are limited assessments since 2002.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	HAIDA GWAII COHO SALMON	This SMU is data deficient.	Data Deficient
SMU	**Narrative**		
NASS COHO SALMON	For the Nass Coho Salmon aggregate (i.e., Portland Sound-Observatory CU, Lower Nass CU, and Upper Nass CU), we expect a near average return in 2026.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	NASS COHO SALMON	While the 2023 brood escapements were above average, the 2024/2025 returns with a conservative Outlook support a "like last year" approach.	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
SKEENA COHO SALMON	For the Skeena Coho Salmon aggregate (i.e., Skeena Estuary CU, Lower Skeena CU, Middle Skeena CU and Upper Skeena CU), low returns are expected in 2026.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	SKEENA COHO SALMON	Even though the 2023 brood year escapements were above average, 2024/2025 returns with a conservative Outlook suggest a "like last year" approach.	2
CU (singular)	SKEENA ESTUARY	Even though the 2023 brood year escapements were above average, 2024/2025 returns with a conservative Outlook suggest a "like last year" approach.	Data Deficient
CU (aggregate)	UPPER SKEENA, LOWER SKEENA, MIDDLE SKEENA	Even though the 2023 brood year escapements were above average, 2024/2025 returns with a conservative Outlook suggest a "like last year" approach.	2

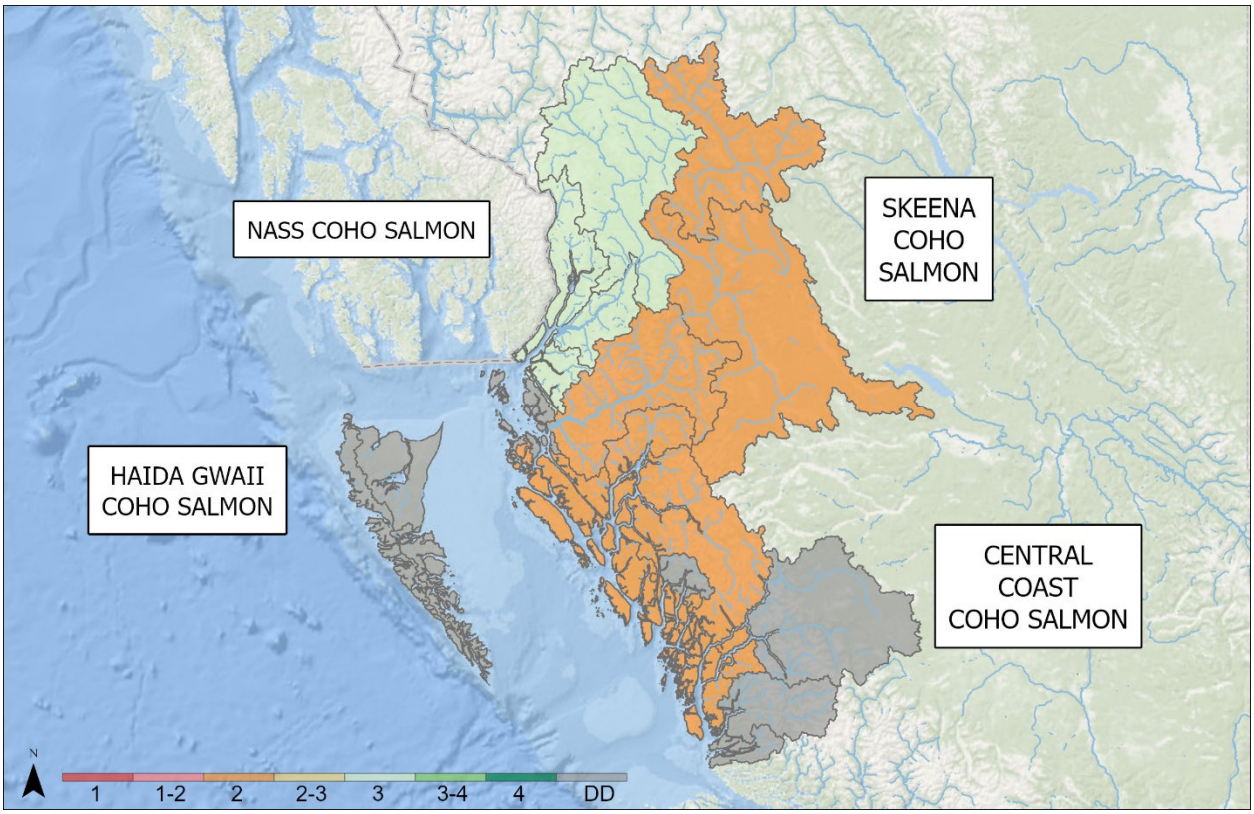


*Figure 11. Map of Outlooks for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the North Coast area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Chum

*Table 11. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in the North Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
CENTRAL COAST CHUM SALMON	Abundances within most Central Coast Chum CUs are below average. Bella Coola aggregate of Wild & Enhanced Chum = Outlook category 3. Dean & Bella Coola River Late CUs are Data Deficient. Aside from the Kimsquit River, estimates from smaller streams within this CU are either less productive (2) or Data Deficient.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	CENTRAL COAST CHUM SALMON	-	2
SMU	**Narrative**		
HAIDA GWAII CHUM SALMON	Status of Area 1 North Haida Gwaii Chum escapement is data deficient; however, Area 2E and 2W Haida Gwaii escapements suggest continued poor productivity that has been observed for the past two decades.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**

SMU	HAIDA GWAII CHUM SALMON	Data Deficient / A Pre-season Chum forecast would not be reliable, accurate, or precise.	1 to 2
SMU	**Narrative**		
NASS CHUM SALMON	-		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	NASS CHUM SALMON	Data Deficient	Data Deficient
SMU	**Narrative**		
SKEENA - NASS CHUM COASTAL	Portland Canal/Observatory CU = Outlook category 4. The Portland Inlet CU, Skeena Estuary, Lower Nass, and Skeena River CUs are Data Deficient, with some data suggestive of recent annual improvements from historically low productivity.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (aggregate)	PORTLAND INLET, SKEENA ESTUARY	-	Data Deficient
CU (singular)	PORTLAND CANAL-OBSERVATORY	-	4
SMU	**Narrative**		
SKEENA CHUM SALMON	-		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	SKEENA CHUM SALMON	Data Deficient	Data Deficient

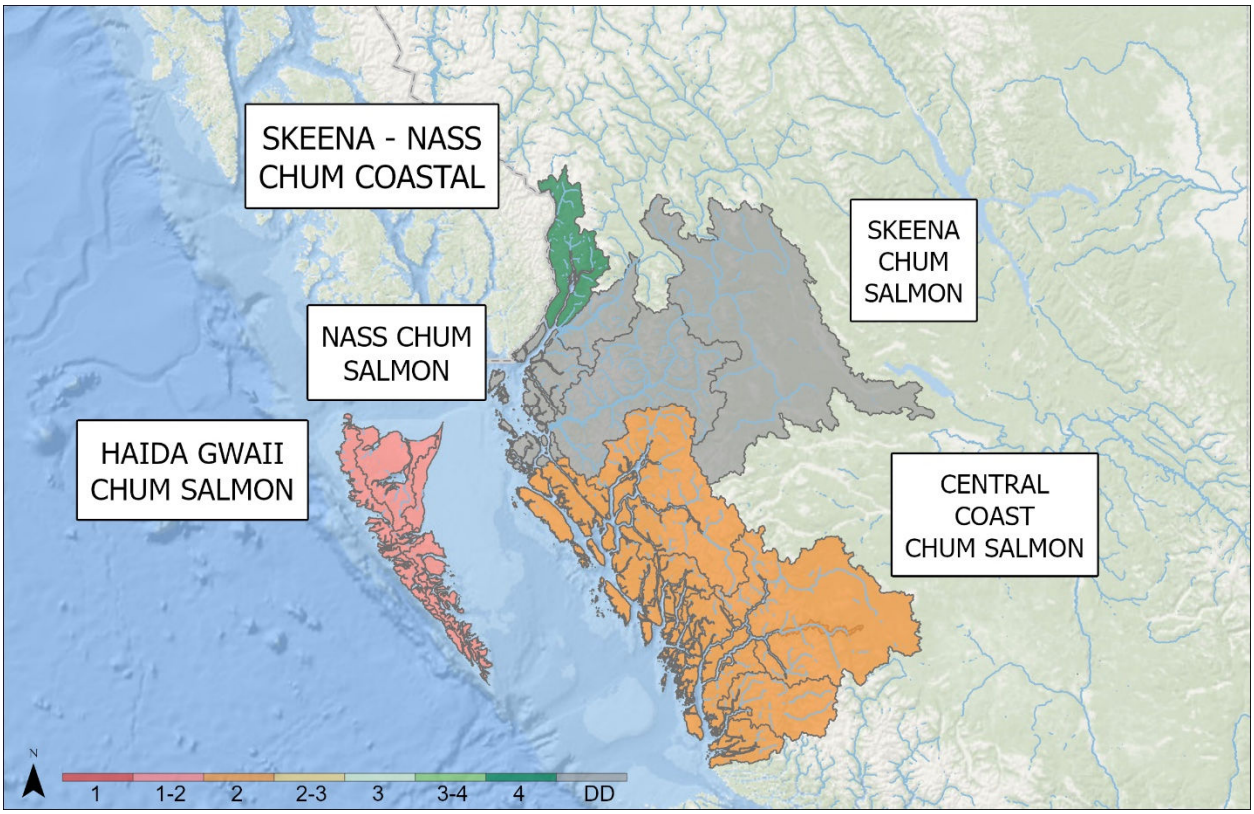


*Figure 12. Map of Outlooks for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in the North Coast area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

SOUTH COAST AREA

Sockeye

*Table 12. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for sockeye salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*) in the South Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	Narrative		
ECVI/MAINLAND SOCKEYE SALMON	For the 2026 return, the two main contributing brood years are 2021 (24,978) and 2022 (no data due to high water). The 2021 return was well below average, while the lack of data for 2022 increases uncertainty in our Outlook. Despite these outcomes for 2021 and 2022, acoustic trawl surveys of Woss Lake were successful and rearing abundances of juvenile sockeye were within the realm of historical observations. Sockeye returning in 2026 will have entered the ocean in 2023 and 2024. We have seen evidence of improved marine survival for these ocean entry years for Pink and Coho Salmon returning to nearby systems. Nimpkish Sockeye typically return as 4-year-old fish (57%), but the 5-year component can also be strong. Given the considerations above, and a stronger than expected return in 2024 and 2025, we anticipate that escapement will be average in 2025. Outlook category 2.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**

CU (singular)	NIMPKISH	-	2
SMU	**Narrative**		
WCVI - BARKLEY SOCKEYE SALMON	For Somass, the two main contributing brood years for 2026 are 2021 and 2022. Brood abundances were below average and abundant respectively for Sproat Lake (SPL) and average for both years in Great Central Lake (GCL). Based on ocean indicators and returns to date, marine survival rates for the 2023 and 2024 smolt years are good and average, respectively. Given the considerations above, expectations are for an average to above average Somass sockeye return in 2025 with an abundant GCL stock and with SPL returning at lower abundance. For the Hucuktlis (Henderson) 2025 return, the two main contributing brood years are 2021 and 2022 which had a little below average escapement. The two main contributing smolt years are 2023 and 2024. Based on ocean indicators, marine survival rates for the 2023 and 2024 smolt years are likely average and below average respectively. Outlook is below average to average.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	GREAT CENTRAL	Forecast currently unknown	3 to 4
CU (singular)	HUCUKTLIS	Forecast currently unknown	2
CU (singular)	SPROAT	Forecast currently unknown	2 to 3
SMU	**Narrative**		
WCVI - OTHER SOCKEYE SALMON	Assessment data are not available to forecast others systems. Anecdotal information indicates some populations (e.g., Kennedy Lake) are greatly depressed, while others (e.g., Bedwell) are seeing moderate returns in recent years.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	WCVI - OTHER SOCKEYE SALMON	-	Data Deficient

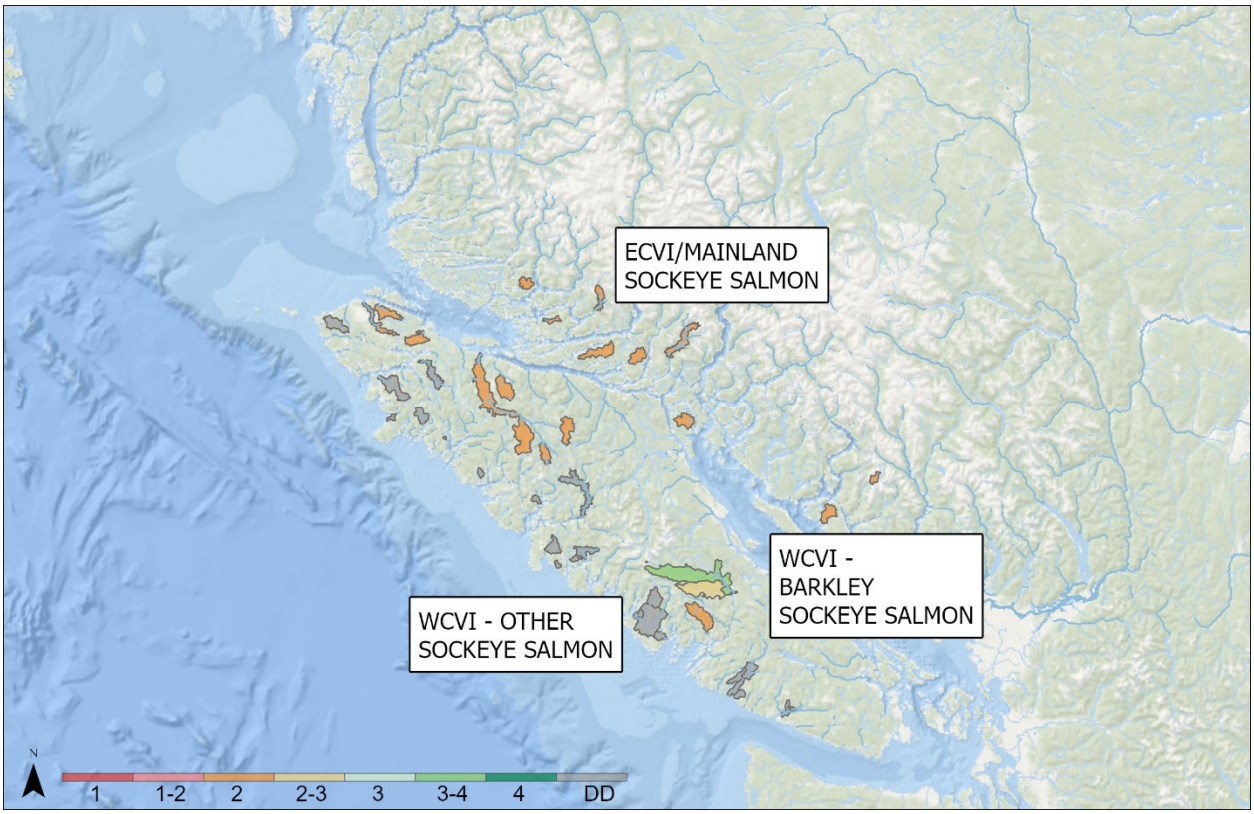


*Figure 13. Map of Outlooks for sockeye salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*) in the South Coast area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Pink

*Table 13. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for pink salmon (*Onchorynchus gorbuscha*) in the South Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
ECVI/MAINLAND PINK SALMON - EVEN	Even Year: 2024 saw improved returns throughout the South Coast with returns approaching or exceeding the long-term average for systems on Vancouver Island and in the Mainland Inlets. Returns were somewhat below the long-term average for the mainland, but most systems exceeded the recent (3 cycle) generational average. Expectations for 2026 are for a stabilization of abundance for Pink Salmon returning to ECVI and the mainland. Pink returns are highly variable, and confidence in the forecasted return in 2026 is low, but average returns to this region are expected in 2026.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	ECVI/MAINLAND PINK SALMON - EVEN	-	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
WCVI PINK SALMON	-		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**

SMU	WCVI PINK SALMON	-	Data Deficient

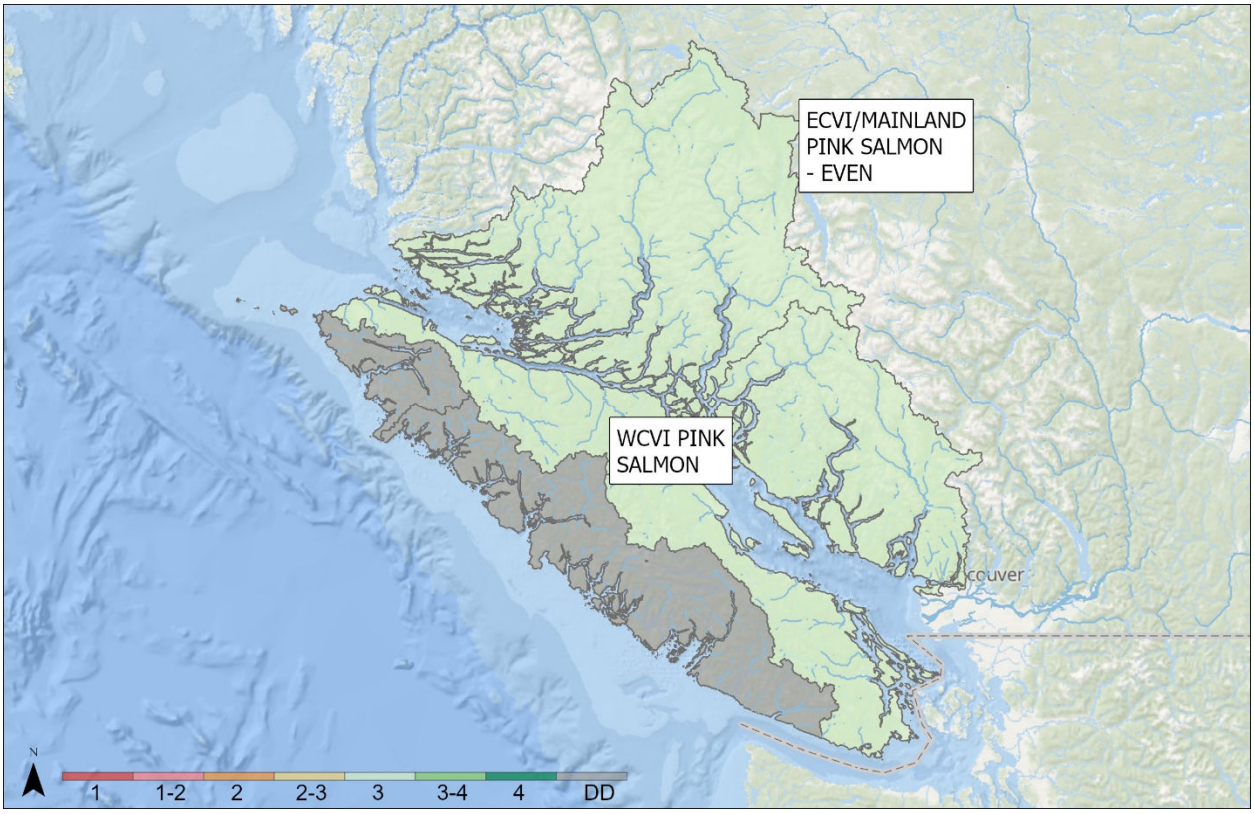


*Figure 14. Map of Outlooks for pink salmon (*Onchorynchus gorbuscha*) in the South Coast area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Chinook

*Table 14. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawyscha*) in the South Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
LOWER GEORGIA STRAIT CHINOOK SALMON	Adult Chinook returns to the Cowichan River in 2025 exceeded the target escapement of 6,500 naturally spawning adults for the tenth consecutive year, recovering from a low of 540 natural spawners in 2009. Preliminary 2025 returns were above the 90th percentile, estimated at 32,366 adults and 18,872 Jacks. Wild production continues to drive escapement with the proportion of hatchery fish in the population estimated at less than 10% for adult age classes in 2025. The 2026 Outlook is for average to above average returns. A similar rebuilding trend has not been observed in the Nanaimo River. 2025 counts were below the 4-year average with 8,510. Expectations for 2026 are for average returns. 2025 Outlook category 4.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**

SMU	LOWER GEORGIA STRAIT CHINOOK SALMON	Forecast models need to be updated following age results from 2025 brood year. Preliminary 2026 output suggests adult return could exceed 40,000 based on three-year average sibling return rates (age 2 vs age 3 and age 4 vs age 2+3).	4
SMU	**Narrative**		
MAINLAND INLET CHINOOK SALMON	Includes Homathko and Klinaklini. DFO is working to expand our programs into the Mainland Inlets. Since 2021, a video counter was installed on Devereux Creek and average annual returns are 850, although additional data review is required. Since 2022, an intensive mark-recapture project has been undertaken on the Southgate River in Bute Inlet and estimated returns have ranged from 832 to 5,175. Although still data deficient, efforts are underway to understand population abundance and trends in these areas.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	MAINLAND INLET CHINOOK SALMON	-	Data Deficient
SMU	**Narrative**		
MIDDLE GEORGIA STRAIT CHINOOK SALMON	The Puntledge River saw a long term average return of 8,354 fall Chinook in 2025, while the Big Qualicum River had an above average return at 15,201. Stable production levels and modest survivals for several hatchery indicators combined with above average returns of 3-year olds suggests average to above average returns are likely for 2026. 2025 Outlook category 4. A combination of additional snorkel surveys and a dual frequency identification sonar (DIDSON) project in the Nanaimo River produced an estimate of 591 fish in 2025, which was near the 4-year average of 680 but below the recovery target of 1785. Puntledge summer Chinook were below the 4-year average of 304 fish at 93 and well below the recovery target of 2,125. Most of the reduction can be attributed to reduced smolt releases in preceding years. Rebuilding efforts for these populations are continuing with recovery potential assessments recently completed. At these levels, rebuilding will take several generations even with improved survival. 2025 Outlook category 2/3 for Nanaimo and 1 for Puntledge.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	EAST VANCOUVER ISLAND-GEORGIA STRAIT_SU_0.3	Forecasts still under review pending 2025 age results. Puntledge expected to remain poor (Outlook category 1) and Nanaimo low (Outlook category 2).	1 to 2
CU (singular)	EAST VANCOUVER ISLAND-QUALICUM AND PUNTLEDGE_FA_0.X	Forecasts still under review pending 2025 age results. Given pattern in recent returns and trends the 2026 forecast category will remain abundant (4).	4
CU (singular)	SOUTHERN MAINLAND-GEORGIA STRAIT_FA_0.X	-	Data Deficient
SMU	**Narrative**		
UPPER GEORGIA STRAIT CHINOOK SALMON	We saw above average escapement in 2025 for the Quinsam/Campbell River, and average to above average returns elsewhere. Recent escapement estimates on the Quinsam/Campbell are likely biased low due to uncharacteristically high carcass predation, but that challenge was somewhat mitigated for 2025 with the addition of a live-tagging component to the escapement program, and the 2025 estimate reflects this new method. Below average to average returns for the brood years contributing to the 2025 return, continuing restrictions on early-timed Fraser Chinook, and		

	relatively stable marine survival in recent years suggests we will see average returns in 2026. Outlook category 3.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	UPPER GEORGIA STRAIT CHINOOK SALMON	-	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
WCVI CHINOOK SALMON	WCVI wild Chinook remain a stock of concern. Escapements of WCVI Chinook natural populations remain low. The Clayoquot area (southwest Vancouver Island, SWVI), and Kyuquot (northwest Vancouver Island, NWVI) wild indicators remain a big concern. It is assumed survival rates of natural-origin Chinook are well below those of hatchery-origin, productivity is therefore anticipated to remain low. Returns of hatchery Chinook stocks to the WCVI were strong in 2025 in general, consistent with the favourable ocean-entry conditions observed in 2022 and 2023. Ocean-entry conditions in 2023 appear favourable and 2024 appear not as favourable for return year 2026. Robertson creek saw a good return in 2025 with a preliminary estimate being 125,000. over 50% of these were age 3-1 and we expect that cohort to make a strong showing as 4-1s. Returns in 2025 to Conuma and Nitinat hatcheries were above and below average respectively we expect 2026 returns to be similar, until we have biological samples processed with which to run a formal forecast.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	WCVI CHINOOK SALMON	Overall outlook is based on natural stocks, which is a 1. Hatchery Outlook are average to above average 3–4.	1
Hatchery or Indicator Stock	Robertson Creek Hatchery	Forecast currently unknown	3 to 4
Hatchery or Indicator Stock	Nitinat River Hatchery	Forecast currently unknown	2
Hatchery or Indicator Stock	Conuma River Hatchery	Forecast currently unknown	3 to 4

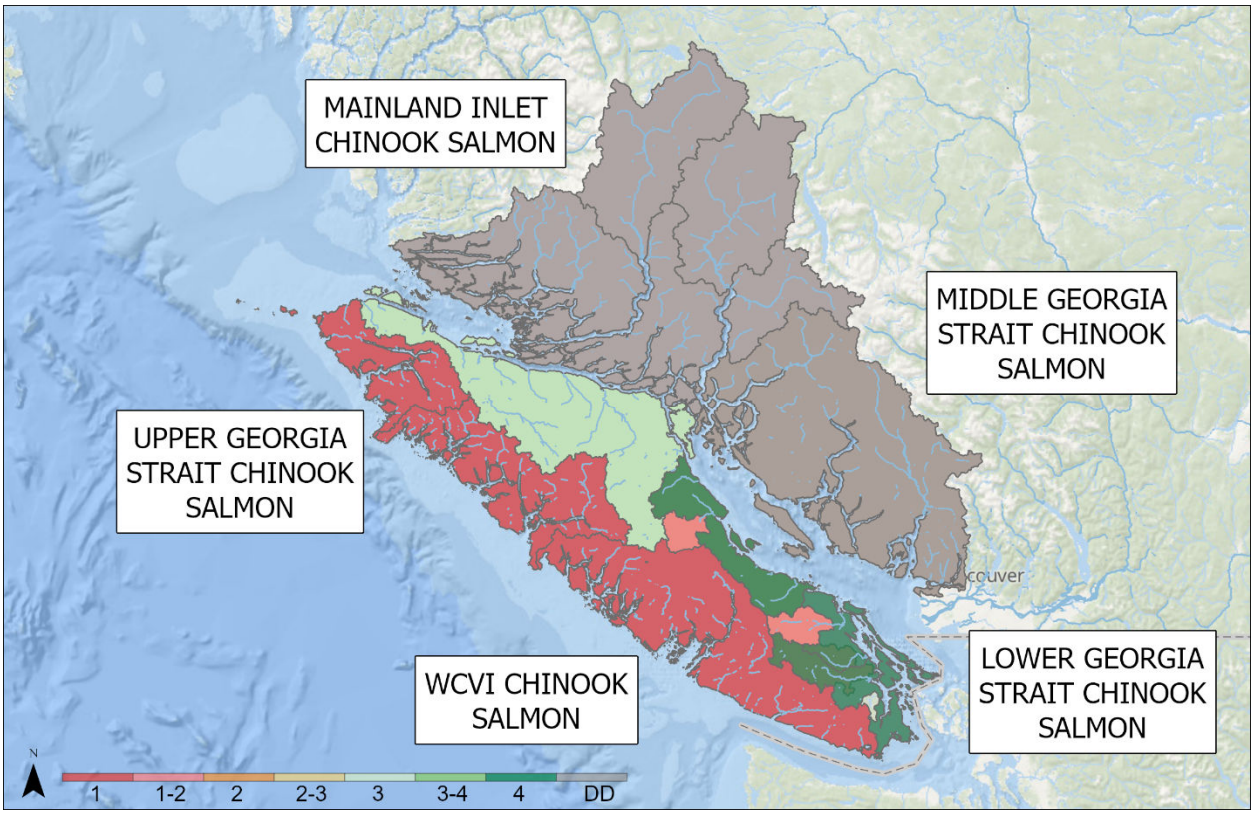


*Figure 15. Map of Outlooks for Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawyscha*) in the South Coast area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Coho

*Table 15. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the South Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	Narrative
JOHNSTONE STRAIT/MAINLAND INLET COHO SALMON	Coho in Area 12 experienced extremely poor survival between 2016 and 2019, but returns to the wild indicator at the Keogh River have increased in the years since. Marine survival remains highly variable, with generally strong smolt production buffering periods of poor marine survival and providing for above average escapements when marine conditions improve. The estimate of 3,263 adult Coho returning to the Keogh in 2025 stems from the relatively poor smolt abundance observed in 2024 (52,546), indicating that marine survival for this population increased dramatically for juvenile Coho salmon entering the ocean in 2024. We expect average returns in 2026 due to apparent strong smolt production in 2025, combined with variable but generally poor marine survival observed in this region. Returns to the Northern Strait of Georgia have generally been increasing in

	recent years, with high survival observed across the hatchery (Quinsam and Big Qualicum rivers) and wild (Black Creek) indicators. Adult returns to the Quinsam were well above average. The wild Coho indicator at Black Creek also saw well above average adult (5,181) and the highest jack returns ever observed (8,662). General observations to date suggest the 2025 forecast under-estimated returns, given smolt production at Black Creek was amongst the lowest observed in recent years (39,000). Expectations for 2026 are for average to above average escapement, following a return to high smolt production in 2025.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	JOHNSTONE STRAIT/MAINLAND INLET COHO SALMON	-	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
STRAIT OF GEORGIA COHO SALMON	Hatchery indicators for this Outlook Unit are the Quinsam and Big Qualicum rivers. 2025 returns of 32,678 to the Big Qualicum were well above the long term average of 16.2K. Production levels are stable and 2026 returns are expected to be above average. Quinsam River adult returns in 2025 were also above average. The wild indicator is Black Creek. This year's preliminary estimate of 5,181 adults is above the long-term average of 3,451. Jack returns were significantly above the long term average of 1,381 with a preliminary estimate 8,662; the highest on record since 1985. The preliminary marine survival estimate for the 2024 ocean entry cohort is above the recent average.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	STRAIT OF GEORGIA COHO SALMON	Survival data currently under review and will be included in the official South Coast Coho Forecast to be released in March 2026. The Outlook category will remain near average (3) due to continued low exploitation and average to above average escapement.	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
WCVI COHO SALMON	Information on Coho returns is limited and results in forecast uncertainty. Data suggests improved Coho marine survival in 2025 relative to recent years. Preliminary 2025 results suggest above 8-year average returns on Stamp (30% above average), Sproat (153% above average), Carnation (94% above average). For 2026, most of the return will originate from the 2023 brood year that went to sea in 2025. The 2023 brood year was similar to the 2022 brood year for Robertson and Carnation; however, for other wild systems the general trend for the 2023 brood year is less than the 2022 brood year. When entry ocean conditions in 2025 are examined, we will have a better understanding of the Outlook.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	WCVI COHO SALMON	Forecast currently unknown	3

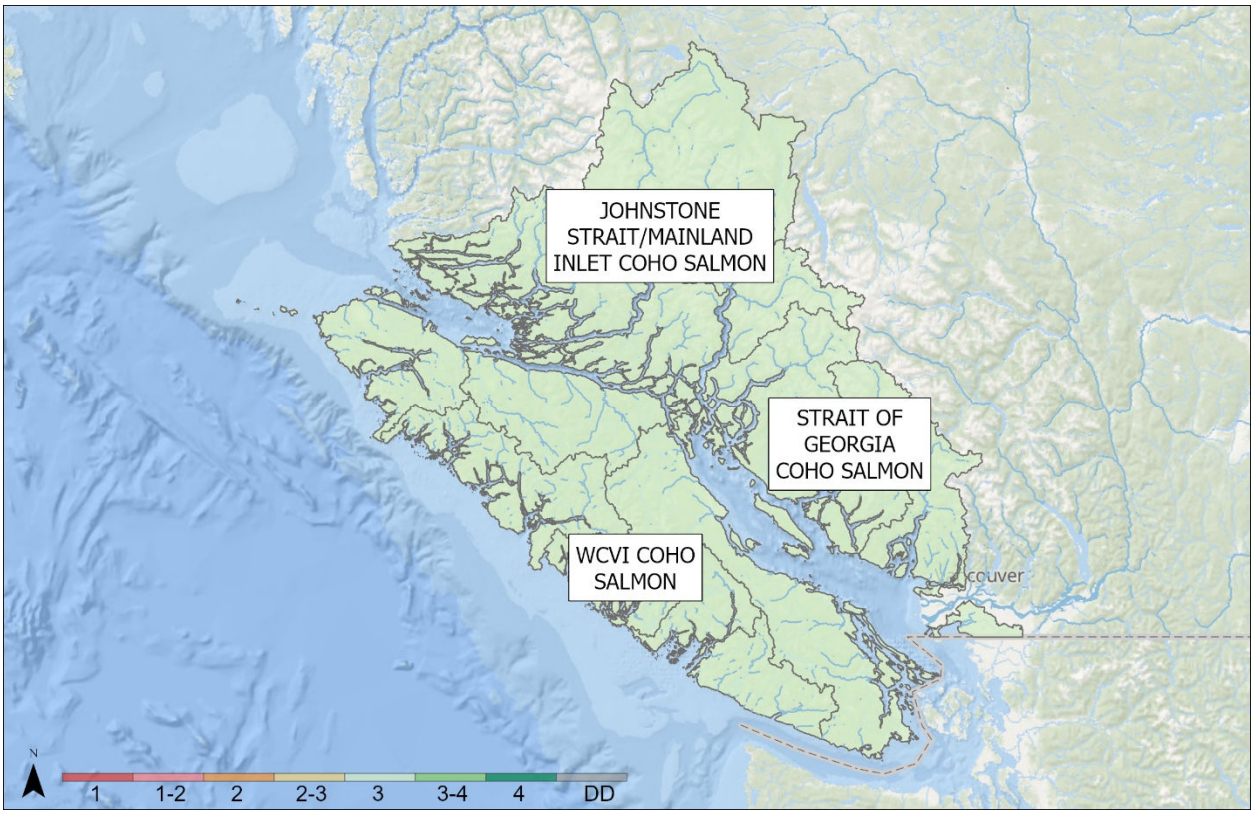


*Figure 16. Map of Outlooks for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the South Coast area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Chum

*Table 16. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the South Coast area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	Narrative
INNER SOUTH COAST CHUM SALMON	(CM-04) 2025 results indicate below forecast recruitment for systems in mid to northern Georgia Strait and Jervis/Narrows Inlets. Returns to Nanaimo were slightly above forecast, Cowichan as expected and Goldstream were poor. For 2026, mid-Island systems (Puntledge, Little Qualicum, Big Qualicum) are expected to remain well below target levels. Nanaimo and Goldstream have the potential to see above target escapements depending on recruitment rates while Cowichan is forecast to be about half of the 160K target. Jervis/Narrows Inlet stocks are forecast to be well below target abundance. (CM-03, CM-05 to 09) (Fall run Chum Salmon stocks in 2025 appear to have mixed performance, although all surveyed systems generally saw lower returns than in 2024, in line with expecations of reduced returns due to low abundance for the dominant brood year (2021). We anticipate that the Inner South Coast (ISC) Chum return in 2026 will be improved from those observed in 2025, largely due to improved escapement for the dominant brood year (2022), and generally improved ocean conditions. Relative to the 2024

	return, the brood year abundance for the 2026 return (2021–2023) was somewhat higher, particularly for the dominant brood year (2022). However, ocean productivity indicators were not as favourable as those for the 2024 return year. The Outlook category for 2026 is 2.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	GEORGIA STRAIT	**Jervis Inlet** - target 45,000 (6,500 normal forecast, 1,600 like last year). **Mid VI (Puntledge, Big Q, Little Q)** - target 230,000 (32,800 normal forecast, 21,700 like last year). **Nanaimo River** - target 40,000 (49,600 normal forecast, 71,100 like last year). **Cowichan River** - target 160,000 (86,400 normal forecast, 81,800 like last year). **Goldstream River** - target 15,000 (36,000 normal forecast, 6,000 like last year).	2 to 3
CU (aggregate)	HOWE SOUND-BURRARD INLET, NORTHEAST VANCOUVER ISLAND, LOUGHBOROUGH, BUTE INLET, SOUTHERN COASTAL STREAMS, UPPER KNIGHT	-	2
SMU	**Narrative**		
WCVI CHUM SALMON	Preliminary 2025 returns of WCVI Chum to most systems were not as good as last year but improved compared to last several years. Poor brood years 2021, 2022, and 2023 will contribute to the 2026 return as age 5, 4 and 3, respectively. Poor brood performance appears to be buffered by substantial improvements in marine survival for the 2019–2022 ocean entry years. 2024 performed well, 2025 not as well, and for 2026 is less certain. In addition, hatchery production has declined in recent years.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	WCVI CHUM SALMON	Forecast currently unknown	2

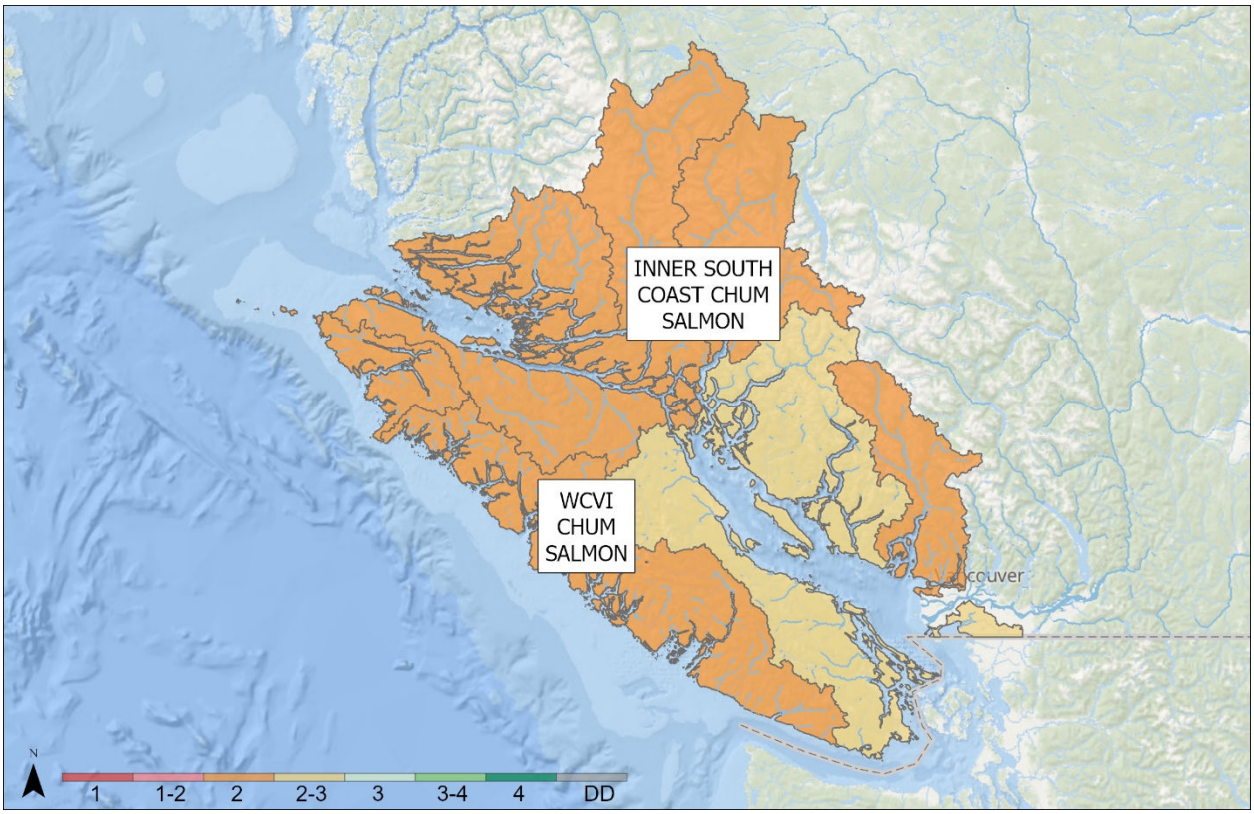


*Figure 17. Map of Outlooks for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in the South Coast area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

FRASER AND INTERIOR AREA

Sockeye

*Table 17. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for sockeye salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*) in the Fraser and Interior area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
FRASER SOCKEYE SALMON - EARLY STUART	TAKLA/TREMBLEUR-EARLY STUART TIMING: Poor return is expected in 2026. The 2022 brood year effective total spawners (ETS; 18,899) and effective female spawners (EFS; 5,279) are below all metrics, including the WSP lower benchmark for ETS (111,753), and the long-term and recent cycle line average EFS (18,136 and 21,052 respectively).		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	TAKLA/TREMBLEUR-EARLY STUART TIMING	63,000	1
SMU	**Narrative**		
FRASER SOCKEYE SALMON -	BOWRON-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: The 2026 return is expected to be well below the historic average of 32,704. This stock can have a large five-year-old component in some years. The 2022 brood year ETS (3,119) was below the WSP lower benchmark of 5,249. The 2021 brood year ETS (2,886) was also low. EFS for 2021		

EARLY SUMMER	(1,609) is well below the long term and recent averages (3,834 and 828, respectively) while the 2022 EFS (1,781) is above the recent average but below the long term average. SHUSWAP COMPLEX-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: Seymour River forecast NORTH BARRIERE-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: The 2026 return is expected to be above average. The 2022 brood year ETS (5,198) is above the lower WSP benchmark of 640 and slightly above the upper benchmark of 5,097. The brood year EFS (2,522) is slightly below the long term average of 3,581 but well above the recent average of 966. SHUSWAP COMPLEX-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: Scotch Creek forecast ANDERSON/SETON-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: A poor return is expected for this stock. The 2022 brood year ETS (2,385) is well below the WSP upper benchmark (22,534). Brood year EFS (1,296) is below the long-term average (4,418) and the recent average (6,461). Note that these comparisons included the Gates River spawning channel, but, as of January 2020, the channel has not been operational, which will influence interpretation of these trends moving forward (Grant et al. 2020). NADINA/FRANCOIS-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: The 2026 return is expected to be above average. While the 2021 ETS (11,834) is lower than the lower WSP benchmark of 21,694, the 2022 ETS (234,089) represents the largest recorded escapement and is well above the upper WSP benchmark of 68,273. EFS in 2021 (6,906) is well below the long term and recent averages of 12,393 and 34,213 while the EFS in 2022 (105,687) is well above both of these metrics. PITT-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: An above-average return is expected in 2026. Upper Pitt has a higher proportion of five-year-old recruits (~78%) relative to four-year-old recruits. However, an above average return from the 2021 brood year may bolster returns this year. The 2021 brood year ETS (14,513) is above the WSP lower benchmark (10,627), and EFS (6,669) is above both the long-term and recent averages (12,867 and 5,026, respectively). The 2022 brood year ETS and EFS are 22,020 and 10,900, respectively, with the total spawners above the WSP lower benchmark and the EFS being below the long term average but more than double the recent average. Note: these comparisons include escapements to the Upper Pitt River spawning channel to be consistent with Grant et al. (2020). TASEKO-EARLYSUMMER TIMING: Reliable return data are not available for this CU, thus no WSP benchmarks are available (see Appendix 1). Above average returns are expected in 2026. In 2022, estimated ETS and EFS were 1,913 and 957, respectively. By comparison, long term and recent average EFS values were 1,167 and 422, respectively. Limited sample size precludes analysis of the age structure of Taseko Sockeye. CHILLIWACK-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: While this stock exhibits cyclical returns, limited data preclude cycle-specific benchmarks (Grant et al 2020). The uncertainty in both the age structure and relevant benchmarks for comparison is reflected in the Outlook status. A poor return is expected in 2026. The 2022 brood year ETS is 3,591. The 2022 EFS (1,899) is below the long term and recent averages for this cycle line (1,474 and 1,530, respectively).

	NAHATLATCH-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: Reliable recruitment data are not available for this CU, thus no WSP benchmarks are available for comparison (see Appendix 1). An above -average return is expected in 2026, as the 2022 brood year EFS was 2,516, which is above both the long term average (2,075), and recent average (1,899). SHUSWAP COMPLEX-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: Poor to below average returns are expected for this CU. The Seymour River and Scotch Creek combined four-year-old brood year ETS (75,213) is above the WSP lower benchmark (36,380) but below the upper benchmark (141,746) for this cycle line. Seymour River brood year EFS (11,808) is less than half of the long-term (46,747) and well below the recent (97,925) averages for the cycle line. EFS for Scotch Creek (22,900) is also well below long term (32,668) and recent (98,729) averages. Although brood year escapements are above the WSP lower benchmark, they are well below recent and long term averages on the dominant cycle line for this highly cyclic CU. SEYMOUR RIVER: Outlook category 1 SCOTCH CREEK: Outlook category 2

Resolution	Name	Forecast	Outlook
CU (singular)	BOWRON-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	10,000	1
CU (singular)	NORTH BARRIERE-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	10,000	4
CU (singular)	ANDERSON/SETON-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	17,000	1
CU (singular)	NADINA/FRANCOIS-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	620,000	4
CU (singular)	PITT-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	44,000	3 to 4
CU (singular)	TASEKO-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	4,000	4
CU (singular)	CHILLIWACK-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	7,000	1
CU (singular)	NAHATLATCH-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	11,000	4
CU (singular)	SHUSWAP COMPLEX-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	264,000	1 to 2

SMU	Narrative
FRASER SOCKEYE SALMON - LATE	SHUSWAP COMPLEX-LATE TIMING: A below average return is expected for this CU. Brood year ETS (703,128) more than double the WSP lower benchmark of (310,783) but well below the upper benchmark of 1,794,869. Brood year EFS (376,518) is less than half the long term average (1,134,793), less than half of the recent average EFS (1,326,060), and is the lowest EFS value on record for the dominant cycle line for Late Shuswap sockeye. LILLOOET/HARRISON-LATE TIMING: An above average to average return is expected in 2026. The 2021 and 2022 brood year ETS were 45,018 and 117,884, respectively, which are both above the lower benchmark of 15,685. The 2022 brood year ETS is above the upper benchmark of 81,023. The 2021 brood year EFS (23,510) is below the long term and recent averages of 39,322 and 21,819, but the 2022 brood year EFS (60,148) is greater than both of these metrics.

	CULTUS-LATE TIMING: A poor return is expected for this CU. Brood year ETS is 514, extremely small relative to the WSP lower benchmark (15,454). Brood year EFS (266) is also far below the long-term average (792), but is above the recent average (95). The smolt out-migrant estimate in 2024 was 68,890, well below the average of 115,299 (2001–2023). SETON-LATE TIMING: Above average returns are expected for this CU. The brood year ETS of 18,196 is well above the WSP lower benchmark of 2,193 and above the WSP upper benchmark of 13,453. The brood year EFS (10,585) is more than double both the long-term (4,282) and recent averages (3,199). HARRISON-UPSTREAM MIGRATING-LATE TIMING: Near average returns are expected for this CU. The 2022 brood year ETS (50,678) is above the WSP lower benchmark (10,731) but below the WSP upper benchmark (84,597). Brood year EFS (20,787) is slightly above the long-term (20,404) but above the recent average (14,573). These comparisons include escapement to the Weaver Creek spawning channel to be consistent with Grant et al. (2020). HARRISON-DOWNSTREAM MIGRATING-LATE TIMING: Reliable return data are not available for this CU, thus no WSP benchmarks are available (see Appendix 1). Poor returns are expected for this stock, since the 2022 brood year EFS (669) was low compared to the long-term (1,597) and recent average EFS (389).

Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	SHUSWAP COMPLEX-LATE TIMING	1,415,000	2
CU (singular)	LILLOOET/HARRISON-LATE TIMING	591,000	3 to 4
CU (singular)	CULTUS-LATE TIMING	1,000	1
CU (singular)	SETON-LATE TIMING	86,000	4
CU (singular)	HARRISON-UPSTREAM MIGRATING-LATE TIMING	95,000	3
CU (singular)	HARRISON-DOWNSTREAM MIGRATING-LATE TIMING	24,000	2

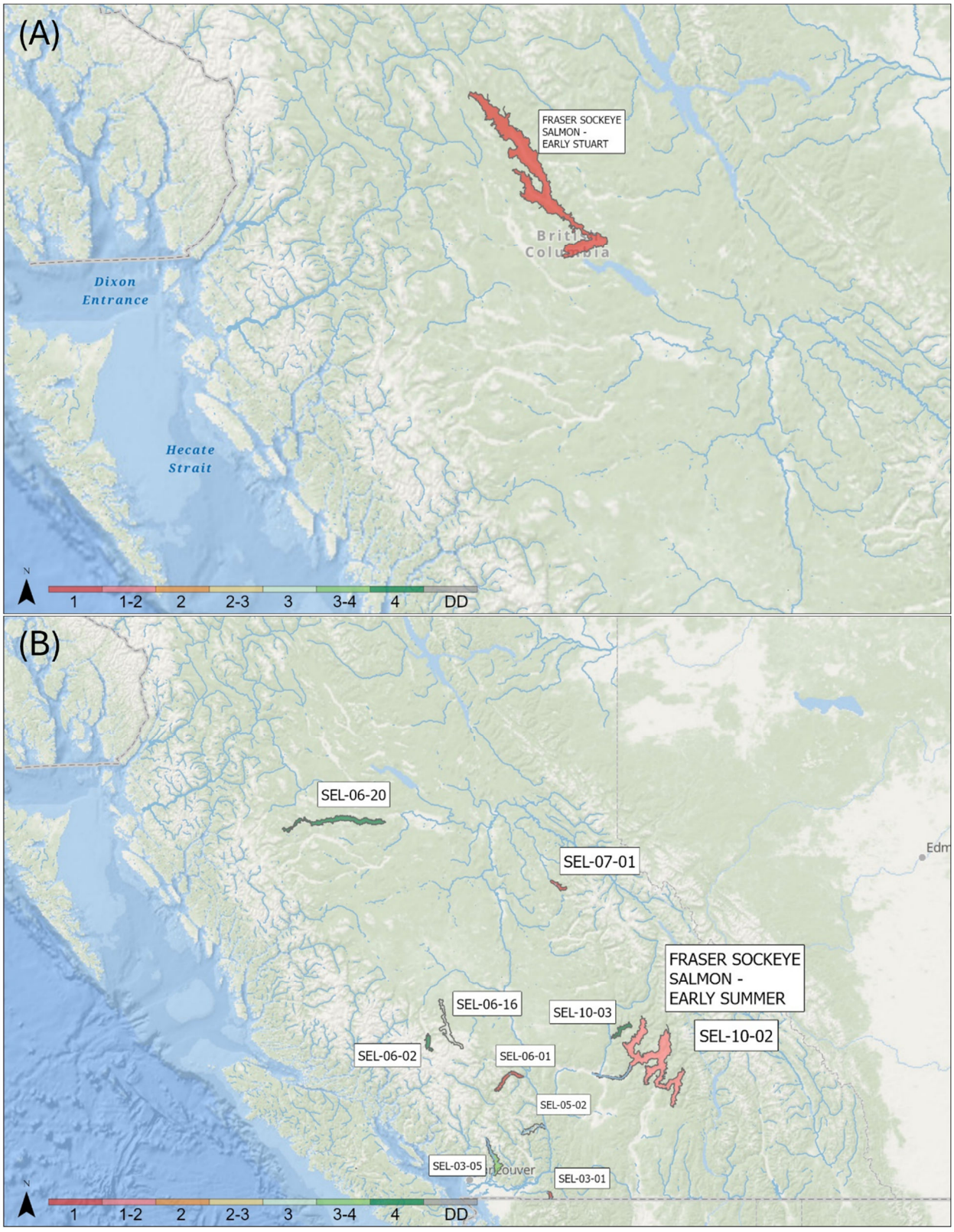
SMU	**Narrative**
FRASER SOCKEYE SALMON - SUMMER	TAKLA/TREMBLEUR/STUART-SUMMER TIMING: A poor return is expected in 2026. The 2022 brood year ETS of 87,161 is below the WSP lower benchmark (132,547). Brood year EFS (41,588) is below the long-term (28,226) average and slightly below the recent (45,095) average for this cycle line. FRANCOIS/FRASER-SUMMER TIMING: Above average returns are expected in 2026. The 2022 brood year ETS (122,758) was well above the WSP lower benchmark (24,256), and slightly above the upper benchmark of 122,612. Brood year EFS (57,153) was similar to the long-term (55,266) and above recent (42,033) averages. KAMLOOPS-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: The 2026 return is expected to be below the long-term average (29,173). The 2022 ETS (3,667) is below the WSP lower benchmark of 4,958. 2022 EFS (1,781) is below the long-term average (4,106), but similar to the recent average (1,605).

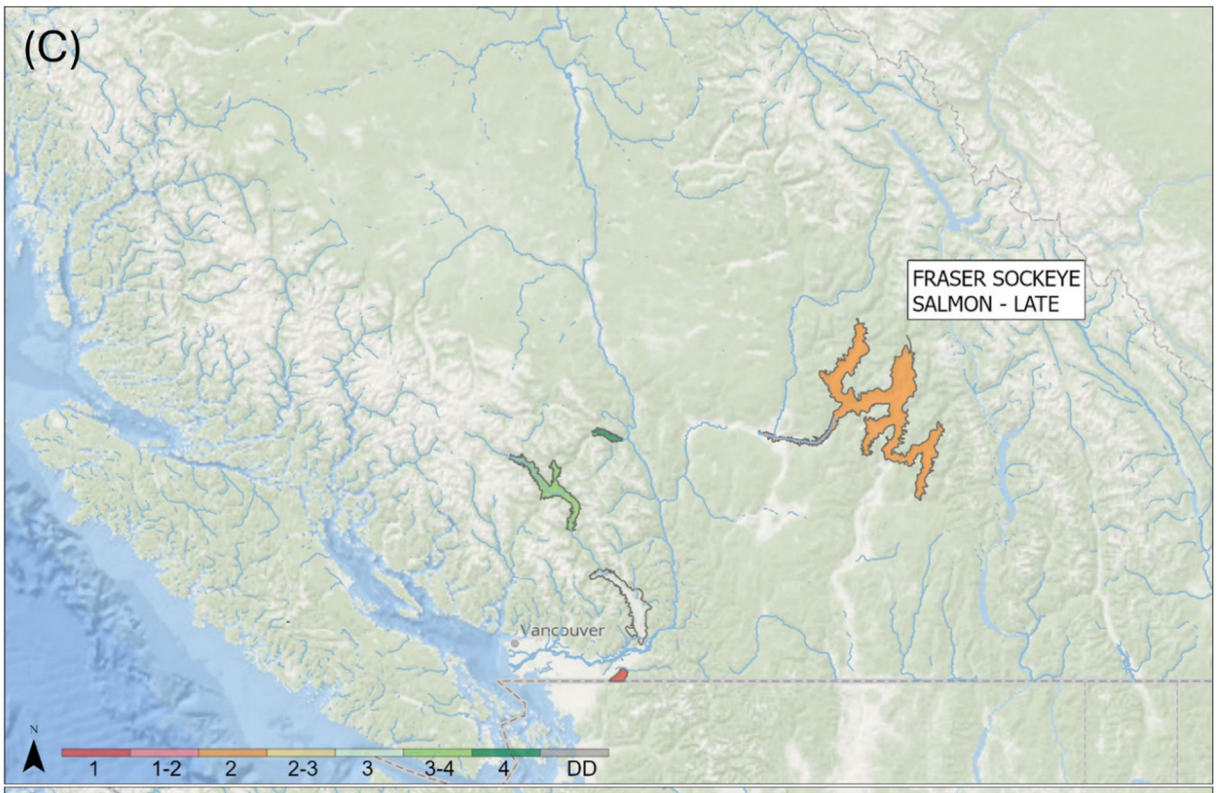
	QUESNEL-SUMMER TIMING: An average return is expected for this cyclical CU in 2026. The 2022 brood year ETS of 763,010 was higher than the WSP lower benchmark of 197,467 but lower than the upper benchmark of 1,307,742. EFS in the 2022 (414,835) was well above the long term average (163,873) and above below the recent average (327,483) for this cycle line. CHILKO-EARLY SUMMER TIMING: Above-average returns are expected in 2026, relative to the historical average (1,350,479). The 2022 brood year ETS of 872,969 is well above the upper (353,863) benchmarks. Brood EFS (484,123) is above both the long-term (229,374) and recent (281,341) averages. The smolt out-migrant estimate in 2024 was 49 million, which is more than double the historic average of 22.8 million. HARRISON RIVER: Poor returns are expected for this CU, but this will strongly depend not only on survival, but also the maturation rate for the 2022 and 2023 broods. This stock has an different life history (river-type) and age structure (predominately three- and four-year-olds) relative to other Fraser populations. Both the 2022 ETS (29,966) and 2023 ETS (29,597) are below the WSP lower benchmark (38,928). The long term and recent averages for EFS are 29,538 and 27,952 respectively; the 2022 brood year EFS (18,778) and the 2023 brood year EFS (18,243) are both below these metrics. WIDGEON: Reliable return data are not available for this CU, thus no WSP benchmarks are available (see Appendix 1). This stock has an different life history (river-type) and age structure (predominately three- and four-year-olds) relative to other Fraser populations). The expected contribution of 3-year-olds is uncertain due to small population size and resultant small sample sizes for age analysis. A poor return is expected in 2026 based on low 2022 and 2023 escapements (EFS: 66 and 34, respectively) relative to the long-term average (307). While the EFS from 2022 are similar to the recent average (78), the 2023 EFS value is less than half.

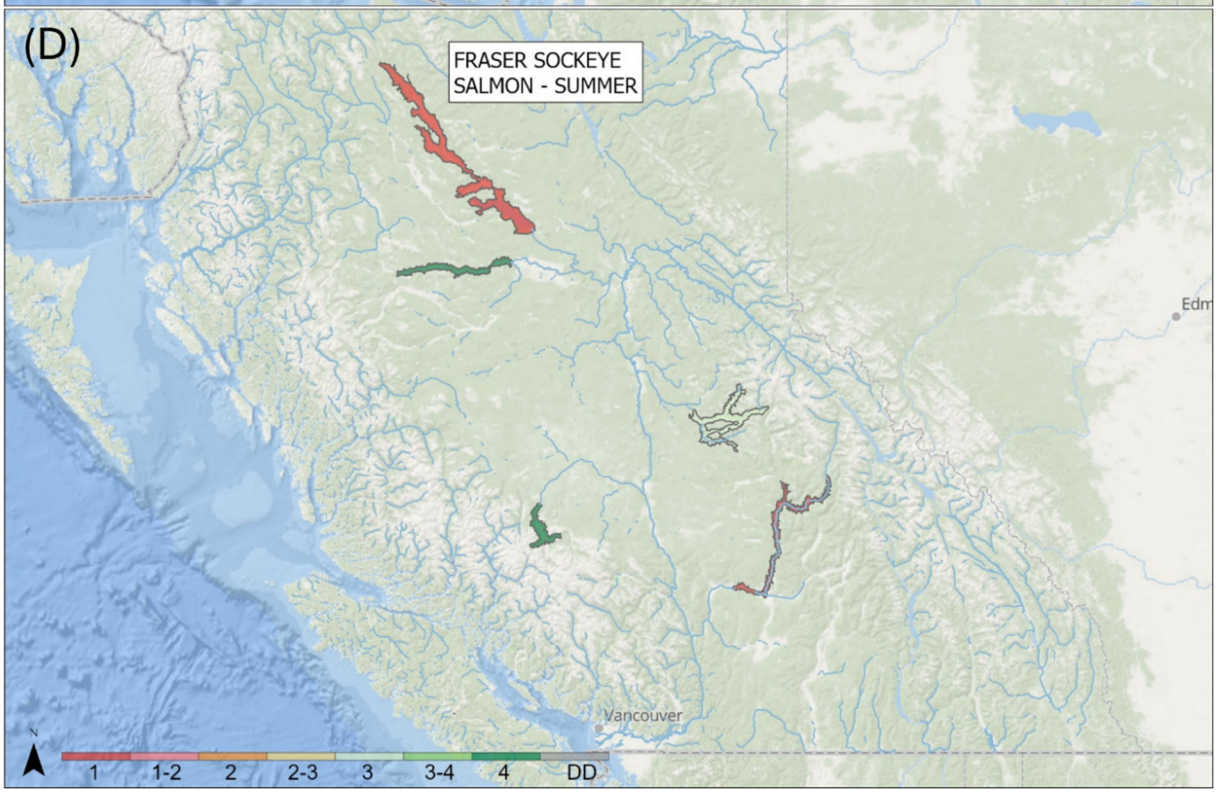
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	TAKLA/TREMBLEUR/STUART-SUMMER TIMING	465,000	1
CU (singular)	FRANCOIS/FRASER-SUMMER TIMING	339,000	4
CU (singular)	KAMLOOPS-EARLY SUMMER TIMING	45,000	1
CU (singular)	QUESNEL-SUMMER TIMING	1,592,000	3
CU (aggregate)	CHILKO-EARLY SUMMER TIMING, CHILKO-SUMMER TIMING	1,741,000	4
CU (singular)	HARRISON RIVER	118,000	1
CU (singular)	WIDGEON	900	2

SMU	**Narrative**
OKANAGAN SOCKEYE SALMON	The Okanagan Sockeye Salmon Stock Management Unit (SMU) includes a single CU, the Osoyoos-Skaha-Okanagan Sockeye Salmon Conservation Unit. This SMU has a two-year cycle with even years being high. Based on this, recruitment to the mouth of the Columbia River is expected to be average to above average (compared to the last 15 years) in 2026. This forecast includes all Okanagan sockeye in the SMU, including both natural- and hatchery-origin fish returning to Osoyoos, Skaha, and Okanagan lakes. Upstream mortality can be high for this SMU, depending on temperatures and harvest

	along the Columbia River and the Okanogan River (U.S. spelling), prior to the fish entering Canada. Therefore, there is considerable uncertainty about the numbers that will reach the spawning grounds.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	OKANAGAN SOCKEYE SALMON	The U.S. v. Oregon Technical Advisory Committee provides a forecast for sockeye returns at the mouth of the Columbia prior to harvest. Their forecast for the Okanagan-bound portion of the run for 2026 is 184,000.	3


(A)
FRASER SOCKEYE SALMON - EARLY STUART
Dixon Entrance
Hecate Strait
N
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD
(B)
SEL-06-20
SEL-07-01
FRASER SOCKEYE SALMON - EARLY SUMMER
SEL-06-16
SEL-10-03
SEL-10-02
SEL-06-02
SEL-06-01
SEL-05-02
SEL-03-05
SEL-03-01
N
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD


(C)
FRASER SOCKEYE SALMON - LATE
Vancouver
N
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD


(D)
FRASER SOCKEYE SALMON - SUMMER
Vancouver
N
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD

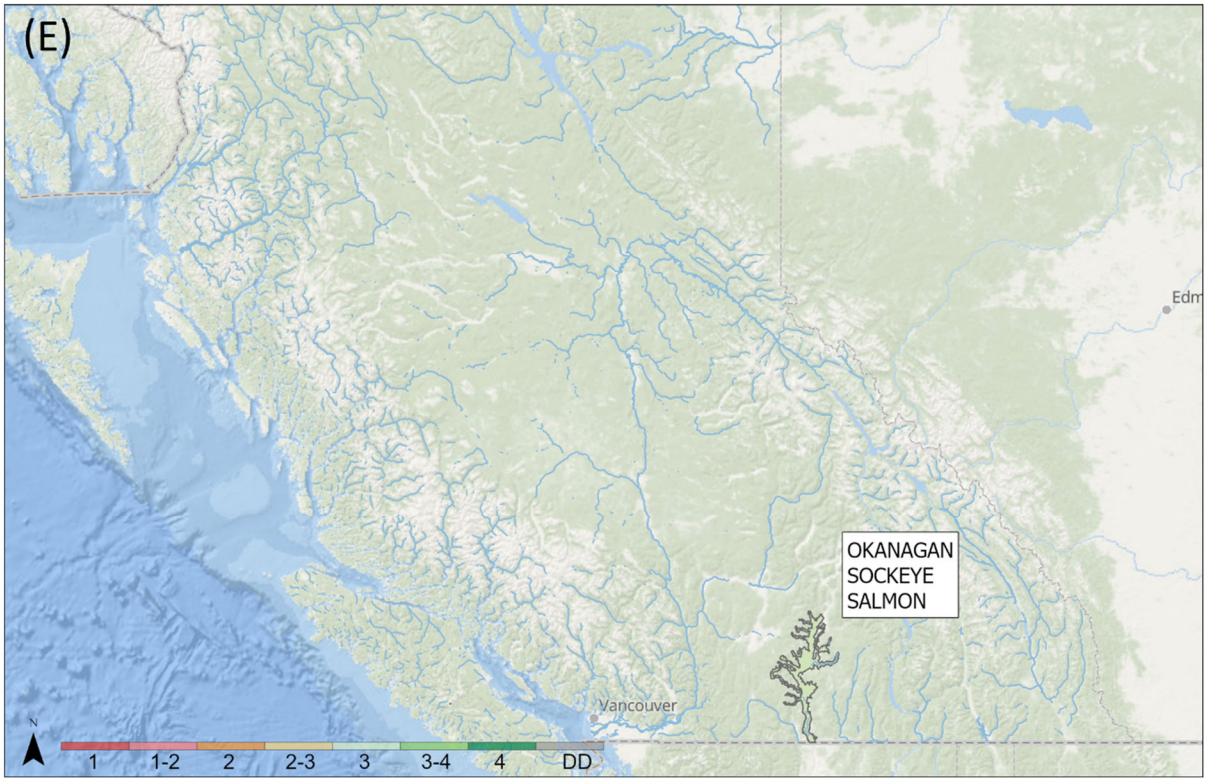


*Figure 18. Map of Outlooks for sockeye salmon (*Onchorynchus nerka*) in the Fraser and Interior area for the 2026 management cycle. Panels (A–E) show individual Fraser sockeye salmon Stock Management Units (SMUs) and text labels within each panel identify the SMU.*

Chinook

*Table 18. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawyscha*) in the Fraser and Interior area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

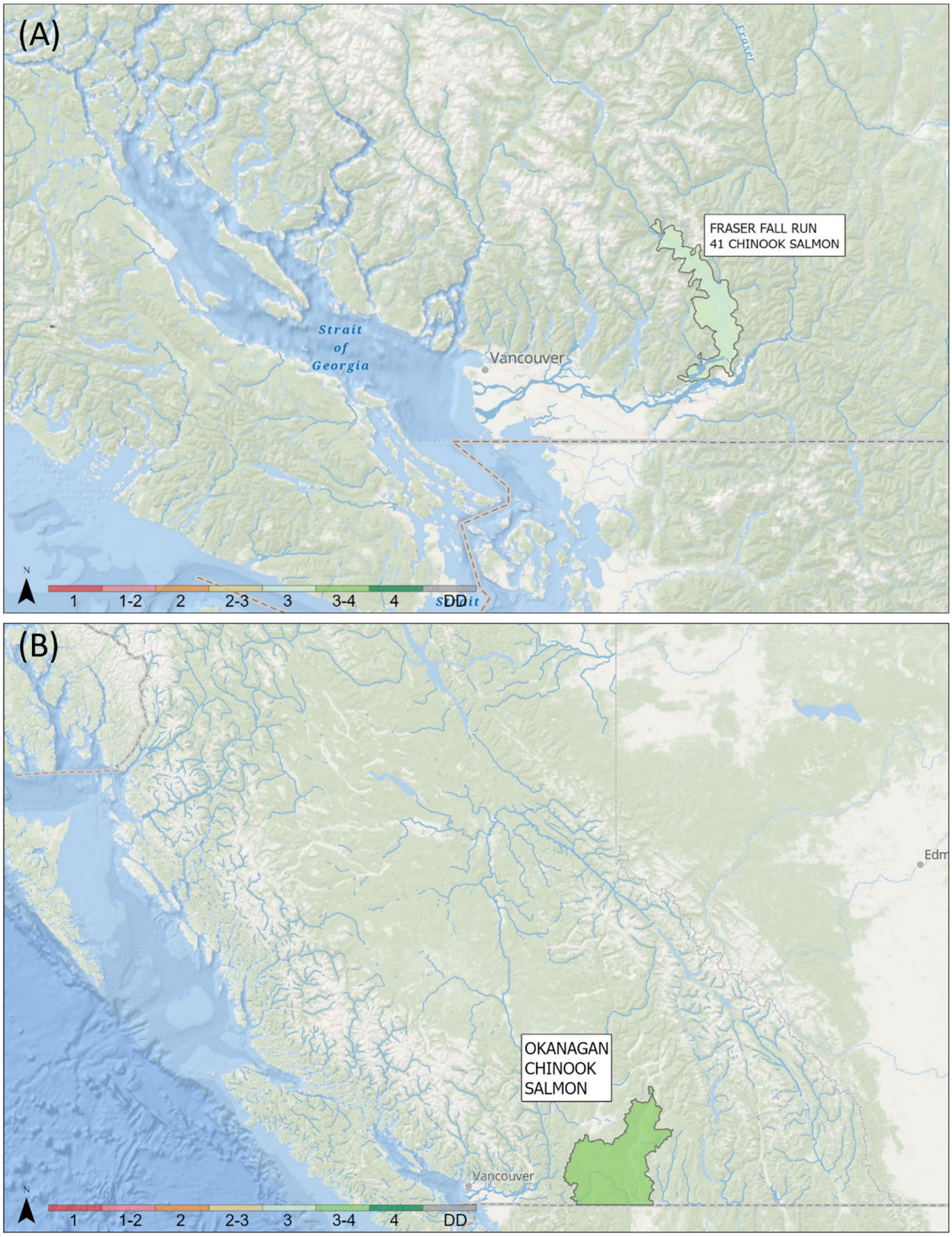
SMU	Narrative		
FRASER FALL RUN 41 CHINOOK SALMON	The 2025 escapement for the Fraser Fall Run 41 SMU was above the long-term average, the 2021 parental brood escapement, and the Harrison escapement target (SMSY 75,100). This is the 4th consecutive year of meeting the escapement target, and we assigned an Outlook category of 3 to the SMU. LOWER FRASER RIVER_FA_0.3 (Harrison): CK-03 has a WSP Amber Status (2023) and was above the average escapement in 2025. HATCHERY EXCLUSION-LOWER FRASER RIVER (Chilliwack) : Expectations for 2026 are for continued above average abundance based on the higher 2022 brood year escapement and improved productivity in recent years. Chilliwack escapement was around 60,000 this year and it has been above the long-term average since 2019.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**

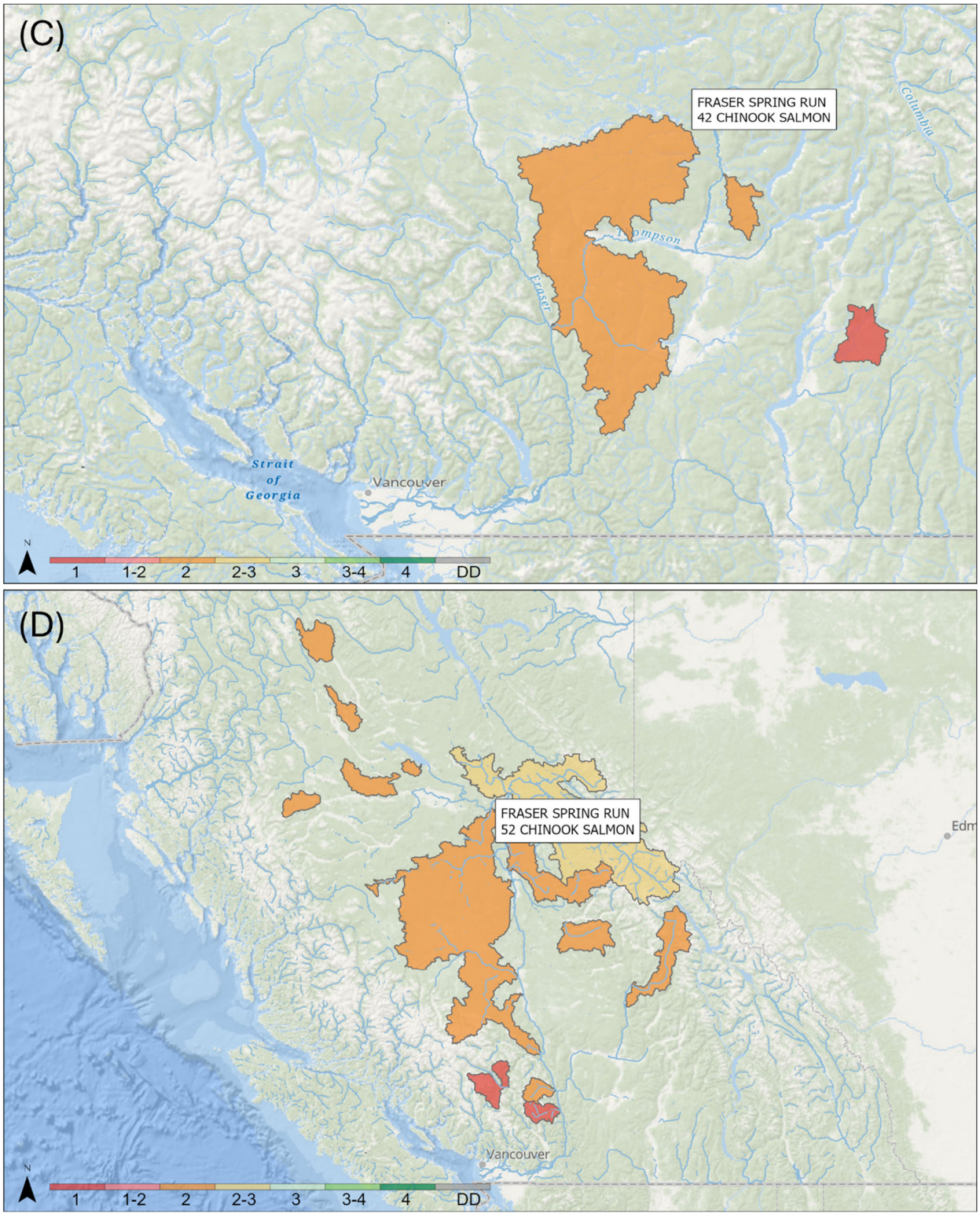
CU (singular)	LOWER FRASER RIVER_FA_0.3	Forecast currently unknown	3
CU (singular)	HATCHERY EXCLUSION-LOWER FRASER RIVER	Forecast currently unknown	4
SMU	**Narrative**		
FRASER SPRING RUN 42 CHINOOK SALMON	The 2025 escapement for the Fraser Spring Run 42 SMU was below the long-term average, the 2021 parental brood escapement, and the escapement target (S_{MSY} 22,100). We assigned an Outlook category of 1 to the SMU. SOUTH THOMPSON-BESSETTE CREEK_SU_1.2: CK-16 has a WSP Red Status (2024) and was below the average escapement in 2025. LOWER THOMPSON_SP_1.2: CK-17 has a WSP Amber Status (2024) and was below the average escapement in 2025. Expectations are for continued low abundance in 2026 due to low parental spawner abundance in 2022 combined with very low hatchery production for that cohort.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	FRASER SPRING RUN 42 CHINOOK SALMON	Forecast currently unknown	1
CU (singular)	SOUTH THOMPSON-BESSETTE CREEK_SU_1.2	Forecast currently unknown	1
CU (singular)	LOWER THOMPSON_SP_1.2	Forecast currently unknown	2
SMU	**Narrative**		
FRASER SPRING RUN 52 CHINOOK SALMON	The 2025 escapement for the Fraser Spring Run 52 SMU was above the long-term average, the 2020 parental brood escapement, but below the escapement target (S_{MSY} 42,200). Despite an increase in abundance in 2025, we assigned an Outlook category of 1 to the SMU, as two CUs remain in category 1. There continues to be considerable escapement variation among and within conservation units in 2025. LOWER FRASER RIVER_SP_1.3: CK-04 has a WSP Red Status (2024) and was well below the average escapement. MIDDLE FRASER-FRASER CANYON_SP_1.3: CK-08 has a WSP Red Status (2024) and was above the average escapement. MIDDLE FRASER RIVER_SP_1.3: CK-10 has a WSP Amber Status (2024) and was below the average escapement. UPPER FRASER RIVER_SP_1.3: CK-12 has a WSP Amber Status (2024) and was above the average escapement. NORTH THOMPSON_SP_1.3: CK-18 has a WSP Amber Status (2024) and was		

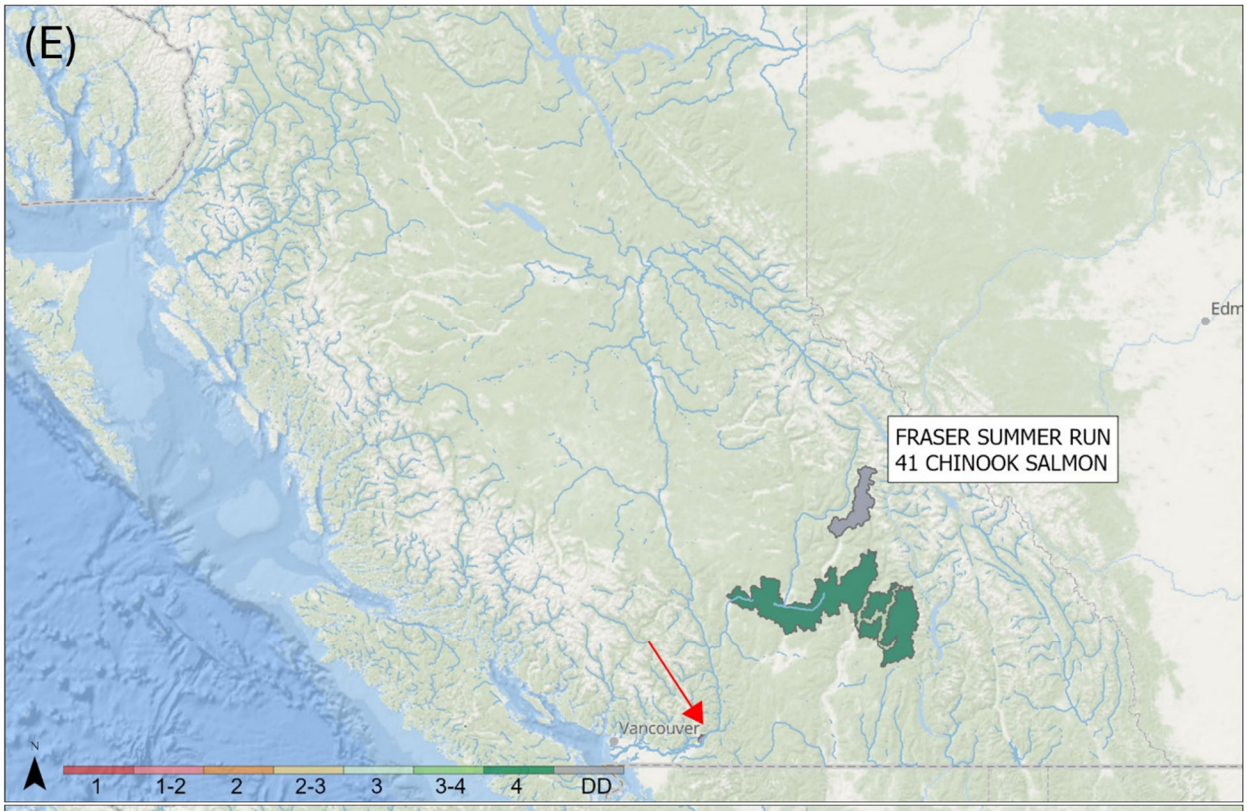
	below the average escapement. Expectations for 2026 are for continued low abundance compared to the escapement targets due to uncertainty around freshwater and marine survival and productivity.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	FRASER SPRING RUN 52 CHINOOK SALMON	Forecast currently unknown	1
CU (aggregate)	MIDDLE FRASER-FRASER CANYON_SP_1.3, LOWER FRASER RIVER_SP_1.3	Forecast currently unknown	1
CU (aggregate)	MIDDLE FRASER RIVER_SP_1.3, NORTH THOMPSON_SP_1.3	Forecast currently unknown	2
CU (singular)	UPPER FRASER RIVER_SP_1.3	Forecast currently unknown	2 to 3
SMU	**Narrative**		
FRASER SUMMER RUN 41 CHINOOK SALMON	The 2025 escapement for the Fraser Summer Run 41 SMU was above the long-term average, the 2021 parental brood escapement, and the escapement estimated to produce the maximum sustained yield (SMSY 120,300). Despite continued high abundance for this SMU, we assigned an Outlook category of 1, as a CU (CK-07) remains in category 1. There continues to be different escapement trends among CUs. MARIA SLOUGH_SU_0.3: CK-07 has a WSP Red Status (2023) and has been declining substantially in recent years, with 2025 well below the average escapement. SOUTH THOMPSON_SU_0.3: CK-13 has a WSP Green Status (2023) and continues to have high spawner abundance, with 2025 more than double the average. SHUSWAP RIVER_SU_0.3: CK-15 has a WSP Green Status (2023) and was above the average escapement in 2025. Similar trends are expected in 2026 with continued high abundances for CK-13 and CK-15, and very low abundance for CK-07.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	MARIA SLOUGH_SU_0.3	Forecast currently unknown	1
CU (singular)	SOUTH THOMPSON_SU_0.3	Forecast currently unknown	4
CU (singular)	SHUSWAP RIVER_SU_0.3	Forecast currently unknown	3
CU (singular)	UPPER ADAMS RIVER_SU_1.X	Forecast currently unknown	Data Deficient

SMU	Narrative		
FRASER SUMMER RUN 52 CHINOOK SALMON	The 2025 escapement for the Fraser Summer Run 52 SMU was above the long-term average and the 2020 parental brood escapement, and was near the escapement target (SMSY 23,600). Despite an increase in abundance in 2025, we assigned an Outlook category of 1 to the SMU as two conservation units remain in category 1. There continues to be considerable escapement variation among and within these conservation units in 2025. LOWER FRASER RIVER-UPPER PITT_SU_1.3: CK-05 has a WSP Red Status (2024) and was well below the average escapement. LOWER FRASER RIVER_SU_1.3: CK-06 is a data deficient CU and was below the average escapement. MIDDLE FRASER RIVER-PORTAGE_FA_1.3: CK-09 has a WSP Red Status (2024) and was below the average escapement. MIDDLE FRASER RIVER_SU_1.3: CK-11 has a WSP Amber Status (2024) and was above the average escapement. SOUTH THOMPSON_SU_1.3: CK-14 has a WSP Amber Status (2024) and was above the average escapement. NORTH THOMPSON_SU_1.3: CK-19 has a WSP Amber Status (2024) and was above the average escapement. Expectations for the 2026 return are for continued low abundance and high variation due to uncertainty around marine survival and productivity.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	LOWER FRASER RIVER_SU_1.3	Forecast currently unknown	Data Deficient
CU (aggregate)	MIDDLE FRASER RIVER-PORTAGE_FA_1.3, LOWER FRASER RIVER-UPPER PITT_SU_1.3	Forecast currently unknown	1
CU (aggregate)	MIDDLE FRASER RIVER_SU_1.3, NORTH THOMPSON_SU_1.3	Forecast currently unknown	2 to 3
CU (singular)	SOUTH THOMPSON_SU_1.3	Forecast currently unknown	2
SMU	**Narrative**		
Boundary Bay NO DESIGNATED SMU	The 2025 escapement for the Boundary Bay CU was above the long-term average and the 2021 parental brood escapement, but it was below the escapement target (2,100). The majority of spawners were hatchery-origin in 2025. BOUNDARY BAY_FA_0.3: CK-02 has a WSP Red Status (2023) and was above the average escapement in 2025. The CU is currently undergoing review for listing under the *Species at Risk Act*. Expectations for 2026 are for continued low abundance related to low parental		

	escapements and uncertainty around survival and productivity.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	CK-02	Forecast currently unknown	1
SMU	**Narrative**		
OKANAGAN CHINOOK SALMON	The 2025 escapement for the Okanagan Summer Chinook CU was below the long-term average, the 2021 parental brood escapement, and well below the escapement target (4,600). OKANAGAN_0.x: CK-01 has a WSP Red Status (2023) and was below average escapement in 2025. The CU is currently undergoing review for listing under the *Species at Risk Act*. Expectations for 2026 are for continued depressed abundance related to low parental escapements, low marine and freshwater survival, low productivity, and low hatchery production.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	OKANAGAN_0.X	Forecast currently unknown	1


(A)
Fraser
FRASER FALL RUN
41 CHINOOK SALMON
Strait
of
Georgia
Vancouver
N
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD
(B)
Edm
OKANAGAN
CHINOOK
SALMON
Vancouver
N
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD


(C)
FRASER SPRING RUN
42 CHINOOK SALMON
Columbia
Fraser
Strait
of
Georgia
Vancouver
N
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD
(D)
FRASER SPRING RUN
52 CHINOOK SALMON
Vancouver
N
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD


(E)
FRASER SUMMER RUN
41 CHINOOK SALMON
Vancouver
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD

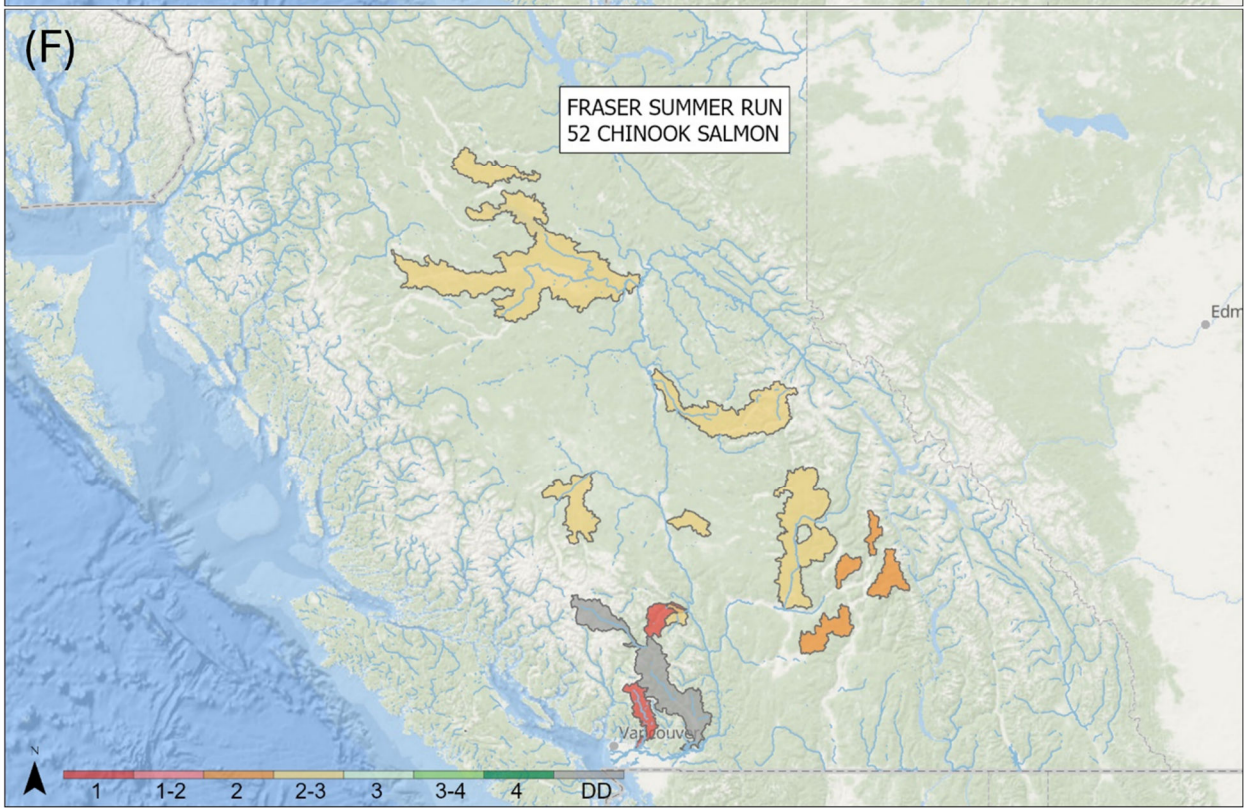

(F)
FRASER SUMMER RUN
52 CHINOOK SALMON
1
1-2
2
2-3
3
3-4
4
DD

*Figure 19. Map of Outlooks for Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawyscha*) in the Fraser and Interior area for the 2026 management cycle. Panels (A–F) show individual Fraser Chinook salmon Stock Management Units (SMUs) and text labels within each panel identify the SMU.*

Coho

*Table 19. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the Fraser and Interior area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	**Narrative**		
INTERIOR FRASER COHO SALMON	The Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) Management Unit (MU) status will remain Low in 2026, as the Moderate status reference point survival target has not been met; three consecutive years of survival over 3% are required for a change in status. Although the 2025 survival estimate is not available at this time, it will not impact MU status in 2026 as the 2023 survival estimate was 2.1%. Recent escapements exceed the PST MU Moderate status escapement target as well as the Canadian Fish Stock Provisions limit reference points. Total pre-fisheries abundance has improved but remains well below historical averages. Interior Fraser Coho (IFC) CU-level Wild Salmon Policy statuses are assessed using the Rapid Status Approach, which is informed by recently adopted benchmarks from the 2025 Fisheries Science Response Report. 2025 escapement estimates, 2025 survival estimates, and 2026 preliminary forecasts are not available at this time.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
CU (singular)	FRASER CANYON	-	2
CU (aggregate)	SOUTH THOMPSON, LOWER THOMPSON, INTERIOR FRASER, NORTH THOMPSON	The preliminary 2026 SMU abundance forecast will be available in March 2026. IFC CU-level abundance is not forecasted.	3
SMU	**Narrative**		
LOWER FRASER COHO SALMON	2024 was the fourth successful year of estimating the aggregate terminal run and escapement for this PST MU. The average terminal run estimate for natural-origin Lower Fraser Coho (191,000) exceeds the average for the hatchery-origin component (125,000). Currently, the Outlook category cannot be determined for the natural component (only 4 years of data available, no LRP or management targets). Inch Creek Coho smolt-adult survival is a proxy for change in relative abundance for the MU. The 2024 marine survival estimate for this indicator stock was 11.2%, which is a 57% increase relative to the 2023 survival estimate (4.8%). Lower Fraser Coho hatchery production, marine survival, and fishery exploitation are expected to return sufficient abundance to achieve hatchery production objectives.		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	LOWER FRASER COHO SALMON	The 2026 preliminary SMU survival forecast will be available in March 2026.	Data Deficient

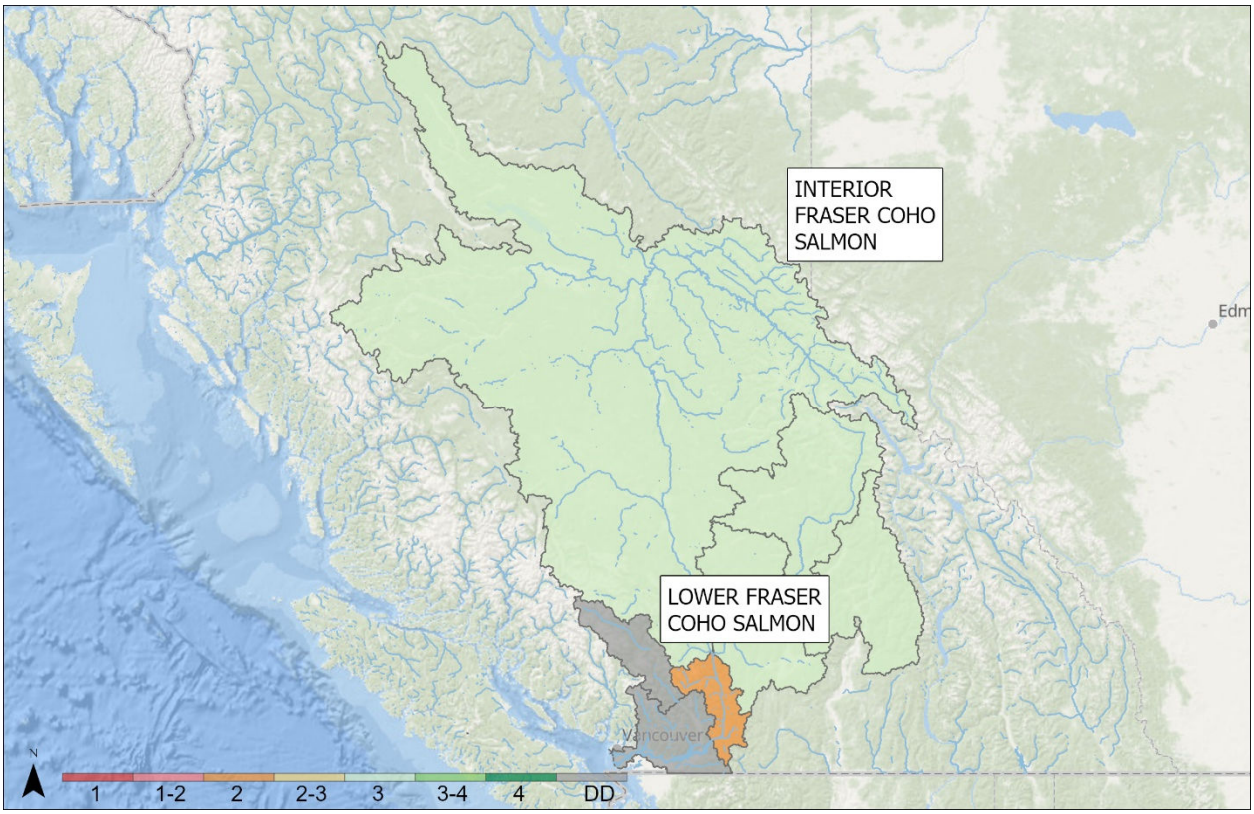


*Figure 20. Map of Outlooks for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) in the Fraser and Interior area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

Chum

*Table 20. Summary of Outlooks, forecasts (where available), and narrative descriptions for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in the Fraser and Interior area during the 2026 management cycle. Values are presented for each Stock Management Unit (SMU), and where applicable, for associated singular Conservation Units (CUs), CU aggregations, and Hatchery or Indicator stocks.*

SMU	Narrative
FRASER CHUM SALMON	Fraser Chum Salmon SMU is dominated by the Lower Fraser Chum CU. Lower Fraser River Chum Salmon spawning escapement has failed to reach the management target in six of the last eight years (2018–2021, 2023). The 2025 in-season terminal run estimate was 616,000 fish and the 2025 spawning escapement estimate (including age data) will be available by May 2026. Spawning escapements failed to outperform brood for 2017–2021, while spawning escapements outperformed brood in the most recent four years (2022–2025). Long term productivity is declining, and the Lower Fraser Chum CU was assigned a WSP Rapid Status Assessment of RED in 2025. Returns in 2026 will be dominated by 4-year-old brood from the 2022 escapement of 1,130,000 spawners. 2021 (530,000 spawners) and 2023 (620,000 spawners) were low escapement brood years, and are not expected to contribute significantly to the 2026 return. The high escapement brood-year and recently observed increases in productivity

	contrast with the observed long-term decrease in productivity: For 2026 the Lower Fraser Chum CU is assigned an Outlook category 2. (2025 Outlook category was 2.)		
Resolution	**Name**	**Forecast**	**Outlook**
SMU	FRASER CHUM SALMON	Forecast currently unknown	2
CU (singular)	FRASER CANYON	Data Deficient	Data Deficient
CU (singular)	LOWER FRASER	Lower Fraser River Chum Salmon spawning escapement has failed to reach the management target in six of the last eight years (2018–2021, 2023). The 2025 in-season terminal run estimate was 616,000 fish and the 2025 spawning escapement estimate (including age data) will be available by May 2026. Spawning escapements failed to outperform brood for 2017-2021, while spawning escapements outperformed brood in the most recent four years (2022–2025). Long term productivity is declining, and the Lower Fraser Chum CU was assigned a WSP Rapid Status Assessment of RED in 2025. Returns in 2026 will be dominated by 4-year-old brood from the 2022 escapement of 1,130,000 spawners. 2021 (530,000 spawners) and 2023 (620,000 spawners) were low escapement brood years, and are not expected to contribute significantly to the 2026 return. The high escapement brood-year and recently observed increases in productivity contrast with the observed long-term decrease in productivity: For 2026 the Lower Fraser Chum CU is assigned an Outlook category 2. (2025 Outlook category was 2.)	2

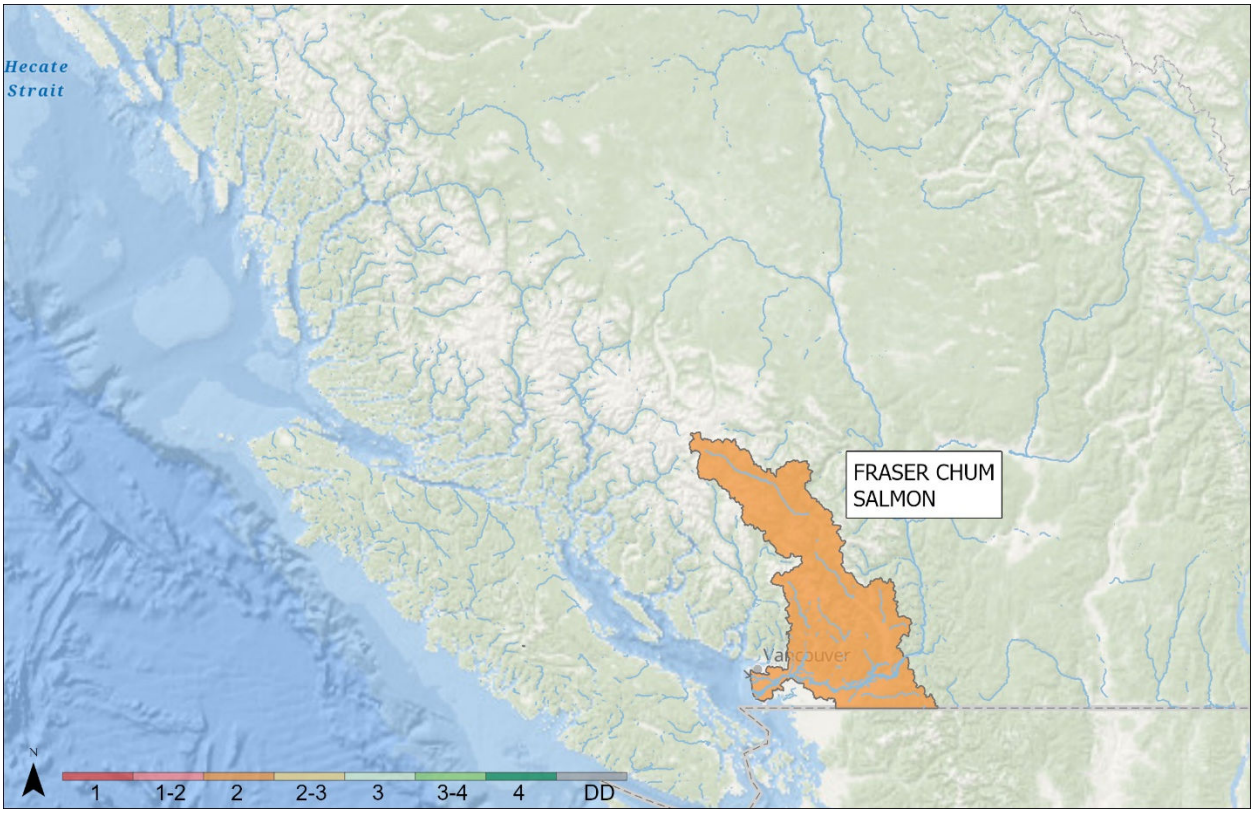


*Figure 21. Map of Outlooks for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) in the Fraser and Interior area for the 2026 management cycle. Text labels indicate Stock Management Units.*

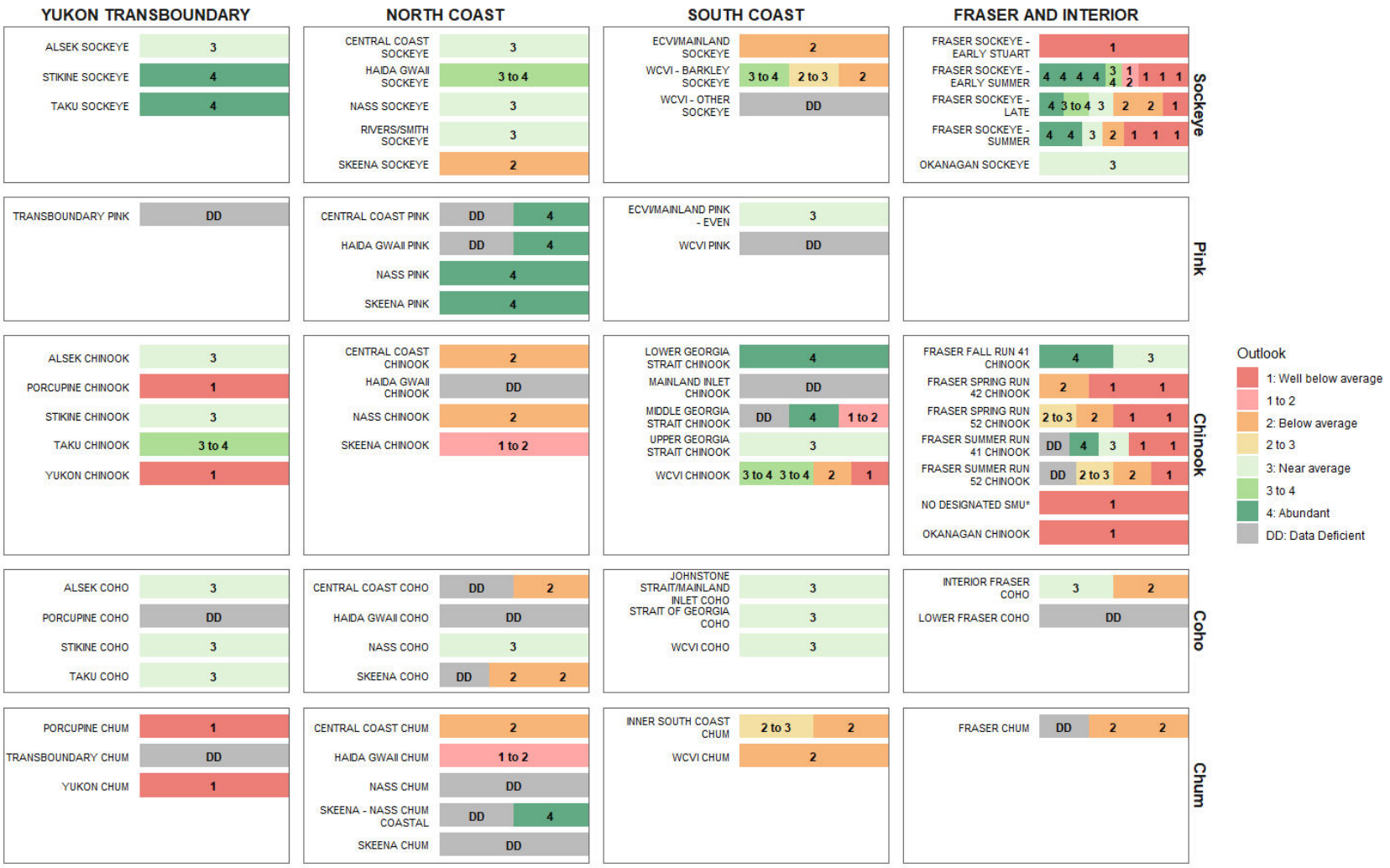


*Figure 3. Summary of 2026 Outlooks by DFO area (columns) and Pacific salmon species (rows). Text labels within each row refer to Stock Management Units (SMUs), and colours and numeric values indicate the assigned Outlook. Where applicable, multiple boxes within an SMU represent Outlooks assessed at the Conservation Unit (CU) level. *No Designated SMU; assessment is reported for the Boundary Bay CU (CK-02) in the Fraser and Interior area (Chinook).*

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APPENDIX - SOCKEYE

When considering the term "target" used for defining Outlook categories, we considered upper WSP benchmarks to be the target (not the lower benchmark).

- Outlook category 1: population/CU is below the lower WSP benchmark
- Outlook category 2: population/CU is above the lower benchmark, but less than 50% of the upper benchmark
- Outlook category 3: population/CU is between 50 and75% of the upper benchmark
- Outlook category 4: population/CU is over 75% of the upper benchmark

Details on how each metric was calculated or obtained for comparison:

- Long-term average effective female spawners EFS was calculated from the start date identified in Grant et al. (2020) up to and including the brood year of interest (for the 2022 Outlook, that would be 2018). This may not hold true for stocks with predominantly 3- or 5-year-old cohorts, but it is not expected to change the outcome drastically.
    - For cyclical stocks, long-term average EFS was calculated based on the cycle line average EFS. For example, for Seymour River, the long-term average EFS is the average of the 2022 cycle line escapements from 1950 to 2018.
    - For non-cyclical stocks, long-term average EFS was calculated across all years in the time series. For example, Harrison River long term average EFS is the average of each year's EFS from 1948 to 2018.
- Most systems compare the average EFS of the 4 year old component (e.g., 2022 for the 2026 returns) to the long term average EFS and benchmarks. However, it is prudent to consider 3- and 5-year old components for some stocks. These stocks were identified visually using the Pacific Salmon Commission Age Composition Comparison App online (Brkic and Latham 2022). Note that for some cyclical stocks, this will have to be revisited in future years depending on the cycle line. For example, Mitchell and Horsefly Rivers (Quesnel-Summer) have a much lower 4-year-old contribution on the 2019 cycle line.
- Escapement benchmarks were manually compiled from Grant et al. (2020). This process is performed at the CU level; however, Scotch and Seymour are reported separately here, as they are part of the same CU and so have the same 4-year median and benchmarks. The benchmarks need to be updated annually for cyclical stocks as each cycle line has its own benchmarks.
- Effective total spawners (ETS) was calculated to compare to the Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) benchmarks as those benchmarks are calculated in terms of ETS (i.e., apples to

apples). Grant et al. (2020) outlines how ETS is calculated; briefly, *ETS = (annual_male_escapement + annual_female_escapement) * annual_spawn_success*, where spawn success is the spawn success of the females (based on egg retention in carcasses).

- Outlook category ranges from 1 to 4, with 1 being the poorest outlook/lowest return, and 4 being the highest/best return. The ranges are informed by the status definitions in FRAFS (2018) with slight modifications to this specific document. Some populations/CUs may receive dual statuses to represent uncertainty in data and/or evidence for multiple status categories (including the potential for multiple age classes). Status designation is determined by comparing brood-year effective total spawners (ETS) to the WSP benchmarks for the specific ETS brood-year. If no benchmarks are available, it is manually/qualitatively assigned by comparing brood-year effective female spawners (EFS) to long-term and recent average EFS. In a case where benchmark rule is not consistent with brood-year EFS relative to the historical data, the Outlook category conforms to the former one.

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