

Day 1: December 3, 2025

Land Welcome & Opening Remarks

Speakers

Michael Meneer, President & CEO at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Calvin Charlie-Dawson, Squamish Nation

Jordan Point, Musqueam Councillor

Stu Barnes, Executive Director at First Nations Fisheries Council of B.C.

Video: https://youtu.be/nv_5MgiZuSo

Keynote - The Power of Now: How Collaborating for Healthy Rivers Can Heal Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Environmental Injustice



Dr. Ann Willis
California Regional Director at American Rivers

Video: <https://youtu.be/xEyGXakPz8c>

Keynote - Towards Climate Resilience: From Science to Stewardship of Salmon Futures



Dr. Jonathan Moore
Ph. D., Professor, Aquatic Ecology & Conservation at
Liber Ero Chair of Coastal Science & Management

Video: https://youtu.be/gv_fCINw5vg

Keynote - A Vision for People Working Together at a Regional Level to Ensure Salmon Recovery and Resilience



Murray Ned
Executive Director at Lower Fraser Fisheries
Alliance

Video: <https://youtu.be/IVJv8UUiOs>

Breakout - Habitat Restoration: People for Salmon

Session Speakers

Joel Harding, Section Head at Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Scott Northrup, Team Lead at Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Morgan Tidd, Coastal Geomorphologist at Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Jessica Hutchinson, Executive Director at Redd Fish Restoration
Matt Foy, Restoration Veteran

Session Details

The field of habitat restoration is changing. There has been a progressive evolution from site-based treatments towards developing a better understanding of watershed-based, or ecosystem-process approaches to habitat restoration strategies and treatments. Many local entities that have interests in habitat restoration do not have access to process-based restoration expertise - so how can local entities guide themselves to developing the best habitat restoration projects?

Breakout - Understanding First Nations Socio-cultural Values

Session Speakers

Rayanna Seymour-Hourie, West Coast Environmental Law
Will Crolla, Fisheries at the First Nations Fisheries Council
Gord Sterritt, Upper Fraser Chinook Recovery Process
Deana Machin, Senior Indigenous Advisor at Indigenous Watersheds Initiative

Session Details

Salmon are at the heart of the culture and well-being of hundreds of Indigenous communities in the Pacific Northwest region of North America. Yet, declining Pacific salmon populations jeopardize the well-being of these Indigenous communities. At the same time, there is a lack of awareness about the scope, nature, and value of the Tribes' and First Nations' identities and practices that tie to Pacific salmon.

Breakout - Data and Information Management to Support Informed Decision Making

Session Speakers

Francois Robinne, Pacific Salmon Foundation
Eric Hertz, Analyst at Pacific Salmon Foundation
Eileen Jones, Pacific Salmon Foundation
Eric Quan, Manager of Strategic Data Policy/Analytics at Department of Fisheries & Oceans
Nell Libera, DataStream

Session Details

Data and information are foundational requirements to understand the status of salmon and factors affecting their productivity. Without data and data management systems to make data available and useable, decisions on priorities, management actions and investments are at high risk of not achieving the desired outcomes and results. How are salmon-related data and information systems being used to support informed decision making, what is missing or needed, and what are some of the most important needs and priorities that will contribute to improved outcomes for salmon.

Breakout - Paths Out of a World of Cumulative Effects

Session Speakers

Dr. Jonathan Moore, Ph. D., Professor, Aquatic Ecology & Conservation at Liber Ero Chair of Coastal Science & Management

Emma Griggs, Master's Student at SFU

Marta Ulaski, SFU at PhD Candidate

Bruce Muir, Senior Consultant at ERM: Environmental Resources Management

Oliver Brandes, University of Victoria

Lisa Helmer, Executive Director at Province of BC

Session Details

Across the migratory life-cycle of Pacific salmon, they are exposed to many different risks and harms from various human activities. There is usually no smoking gun, it is a death by a thousand cuts, it is a world of cumulative effects. This session will bring together thought leaders and experts on this wicked problem of cumulative effects. Talks could include new scientific approaches and decision-support tools, holistic Indigenous-led approaches such as IPCA and Salmon Parks, and paths forward for system transformation.

Video: [https://youtu.be/ V BTqObj 0](https://youtu.be/V BTqObj 0)

Breakout - What impact do community grants have on salmon?

Session Speakers

Jim Shinkewski, Pacific Salmon Foundation

Michael Crowe, Regional Manager, Community Involvement Programs at Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Katrina Adams, Senior aquatic biologist at Peninsula Streams Society

Maureen Ritter, President of the Board at Oyster River Enhancement Society

Lee Hesketh, Farmland-Riparian Interface Stewardship Program

Session Details

Over the past 35 years, PSF's Community Salmon Program has supported more than 3,300 projects across B.C. and the Yukon, engaging roughly 30,000 volunteers. Successful initiatives have included salmon habitat restoration, monitoring and research, streamkeeper training, and educational programs that raise awareness for salmon. Hear about some of the many innovative streamkeepers, First Nations, schools, and conservation organizations working to move the dial for salmon.

Breakout - Climate Emergencies & Impact in BC: Fire, Flood & Droughts

Session Speakers

Jane Pendray, Pacific Salmon Foundation
Jeff Morgan, Consultant
Jessie Chestnut, Fisheries Biologist at Secwépemc Fisheries Commission
Dan Straker, Resilient Waters
Lynda Ritchie
Jenna Sutherst, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Session Details

British Columbia continues to face record-breaking climate events, presenting life-threatening conditions for salmon and undeniable evidence of new challenges salmon are up against. Record droughts hit watersheds hard and persist longer. Paired with historically low snowpack, the message is clear: salmon are on the frontlines of climate change.

Breakout – Water! E-flows, Storage for Salmon, Thermal Refugia

Session Speakers

Fin Donnelly, Watershed Restoration
Karilyn Alex, Okanagan Nation Alliance
Tom Rutherford, Director of Strategic Prior at Cowichan Water Board
Oliver Brandes, University of Victoria
Katie Healey, Ecofish Research

Session Details

Activities like forestry, mining, agriculture can have significant impacts on the landscape, altering geomorphology and hydrological processes. Industrial extraction of surface and ground water can reduce stream flows, increase water temperatures, and limit access to habitats. In stream, climate change is driving water temperatures above thresholds that are optimal for their survival. But thermal refuges – cool water areas where groundwater pools in rivers – can offer salmon relief from surrounding high water temperatures.

Breakout – Highs and Lows. Major conservation problems and surprising abundance?

Session Speakers

Eileen Jones, Pacific Salmon Foundation

Dr. Dick Beamish, Emeritus Scientist at Pacific Biological Station

Lauren Weir, Chinook/Coho analytical program

Dennis Zimmerman, Chair at Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee

Mark Saunders, past Director of the International Year of the Salmon at North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

Session Details

There are numerous conservation problems that could be described as severe, and at the same time there are some salmon populations that are showing surprising abundance. This session will explore some of the significant conservation challenges and some of situations where salmon are doing well.

Breakout - Forward-thinking Perspectives on Salmon Hatcheries

Session Speakers

Jason Hwang, Chief Program Officer at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Dave Willis, Biologist at Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Adam Silverstein, Regional Manager, Hatchery Reform and Modernization at Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Scott Hinch, Professor of Fisheries Conservation at UBC

Megan Moody, Board Member at Coastal First Nations - Great Bear Initiative

Session Details

Hatcheries play important roles in conservation of imperiled stocks and with supporting fisheries. Hatcheries in British Columbia release about 250 million juvenile salmon every year, and while this enhancement can yield positive impacts, there can also be risks introduced to wild salmon. This session will explore new thinking and ideas on how we can use hatcheries to contribute to conservation and management objectives.

Video: <https://youtu.be/Zw0Y059-R0I>

Breakout - Science to Inform Salmon Recovery and Resilience

Session Speakers

Andrew Bateman, Pacific Salmon Foundation

Matteo Saletti, Senior Fluvial Geomorphologist at Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Jameison Atkinson, Aquatic Research and Restoration Centre's Program Manager at BC Conservation Foundation

David Scott, Raincoast Conservation Foundation

Dr. Will Duguid, Pacific Salmon Foundation

Session Details

With the current poor state of many salmon populations in BC, many entities are looking at how they can support salmon recovery and resilience. This is an opportunity to hear about recent and emerging science that can inform strategies and priorities to support salmon recovery and resilience. This session and the subsequent one will consider tools, technology, and ecosystem science

Day 2: December 4, 2025

Breakout - Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

Session Speakers

Terry Dorward, IISAK OLAM Foundation
Bert Boucher, Mamalilikulla First Nation
Ernie Victor, Cheam First Nation
Lauren McNeilly, First Nations Fisheries Council of BC

Session Details

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas are a transformative way to protect salmon habitat and recovery, while also recognizing First Nations' inherent rights and title, jurisdiction and authority to manage and steward their lands, waters and resources. This panel will showcase efforts by First Nations and partners to establish protected areas for salmon, and how these efforts can bring cumulative benefits for salmon recovery across their vast migratory routes.

Breakout - Accelerating Action to Remove Threats Under Our Control

Session Speakers

Kilian Stehfest, Manager, Government and Policy at Pacific Salmon Foundation
Honourable Joyce Murray, Vancouver Quadra at Member of Parliament
Andrew Bateman, Pacific Salmon Foundation
Hayley Tomlin, BC Conservation Foundation
James Mack, Government of BC

Session Details

For salmon resilience now and into the future, we must address factors that are within our control. PSF and trusted partners are tackling monitoring and research related to the impacts of open-net pen salmon farms, invasive species, log booms, tire toxins, and other issues, and implications to wild Pacific salmon.

Breakout - BCSRIF Lightning Round

Session Speakers

Shane Petersen, Manager, Partnerships and Outreach BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund
Reconciliation and Partnerships Branch at Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Steven Henstra, Restoration Biologist at Nature Trust of BC
Tom Reid, Program Manager at Nature Trust of BC
Sam James, Project Manager, Bottlenecks to Survival at Pacific Salmon Foundation
Mark Saunders, past Director of the International Year of the Salmon at North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
Tom Balfour, Restoration practitioner and fish ecologist at Redd Fish Restoration Society
Ahmed Siah, Managing Director at BC Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences
Jordan Motruck, tbd
Chelton Van Geloven, Lheidli T'enneh First Nation
Ellen Petticrew, University of Northern British Columbia
Genyffer Troina, Postdoctoral Fellow at UBC

Session Details

This "lightning round" will feature short talks from British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BSCRIF) proponents. The federally and provincially co-funded BCSRIF program supports protection and restoration activities for Pacific salmon and other priority wild fish stocks. The program focuses on innovation, infrastructure, and science partnerships that prioritize salmon ecosystems, salmon habitats, and sustainable fisheries for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

Breakout - Collaborative Salmon Recovery: Success Stories

Session Speakers

Jason Hwang, Chief Program Officer at Pacific Salmon Foundation
Karilyn Alex, Okanagan Nation Alliance
Jacob V. E. Katz, Ph.D, Lead Scientist at California Trout
Tim Kulchyski, Cowichan Tribes - Lulumexun

Session Details

Partnerships and collaboration have been at the core of successful salmon recovery issues. Working together, we can push beyond the status quo and toward a future of salmon recovery and resilience. This session will look at success stories for salmon - what were the key factors or ingredients for success?

Video: <https://youtu.be/jl7CrF7O2HI>

Breakout - Limits to Salmon Restoration: Community Dialogues across BC. What people told us!

Session Speakers

Deana Machin, Senior Indigenous Advisor at Indigenous Watersheds Initiative

Dr. Brian Riddell, Science Advisor at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Crystal McMaster, Administrative Director at Scw'exmx Tribal Council

Brian Holmes, Councillor at Upper Nicola Band

Dolph Schluter, Professor at UBC - Department of Zoology

Dr. Tara Martin, Professor at UBC - Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences

Session Details

Recognizing the diversity of issues for Pacific salmon across BC, this project sought public input on local problems, priorities for salmon restoration, and advice to government. Under contract to DFO, UBC/IOF conducted 13 public meetings (April/May 2024) to receive public input and recommendations. This session will report on key messages heard across these meetings and will complement the messages with 3 additional presentations: new genomic studies on salmon adaptation, a discussion of prioritizing restoration actions, and recent experience in watershed governance (Nicola watershed). Followed by open discussion and feedback.

Breakout - Small Barriers. Big Problems.

Session Speakers

Marc Porter, Senior Analyst at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Nicolas Lapointe, Senior Conservation Biologist – Freshwater Ecology at Canadian Wildlife Federation

Lina Azeez, Lower Fraser Habitat Programs Director at Watershed Watch Salmon Society

Zachary Sherker, UBC

Liana Ayach, Environmental Technologist at City of Surrey

Breakout - Strategies to Mitigate High Seas Salmon Competition

Session Speakers

Eric Hertz, Analyst at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Kathryn Berry, Science Director at North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

Randall Peterman, Retired Professor and former Canada Research Chair at Simon Fraser University

Greg Ruggerone, Scientist, President at Natural Resources Consultants

Breakout - Future Fisheries: Transformation of salmon fisheries

Session Speakers

Scott Hinch, Professor of Fisheries Conservation at UBC

Amy Wakelin, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Sonia Strobel, Skipper Otto

Jeff Grout, Director - Salmon Management and Client Services · at Fisheries & Oceans Canada

Samantha Renshaw, Fisheries and Seafood Science Manager at Ocean Wise

Video: <https://youtu.be/Cxt44p0VFNo>

Breakout - Salmon Recovery: What is underway and what approaches and tools are being applied

Session Speakers

Jane Healey, Project specialist at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Chantelle Caron, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Teri Ridley, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Claire Menendez, Fisheries manager at Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Marcel Shepert, Fraser Salmon Management Council

Gord Sterritt, Upper Fraser Chinook Recovery Process

Keith West

Session Details

This session will explore some of the current salmon recovery endeavours that are underway in BC. It will provide an opportunity to explore approaches, tools, information, scales of work, and other key aspects of salmon recovery planning that is currently underway.

Breakout - Salmon & Climate: A Transboundary Approach

Session Speakers

Michael Meneer, President & CEO at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Jacques White, Chief Executive Officer at Long Live the Kings

John Field, Pacific Salmon Commission

Erik Neatherlin, Washington State Governor's Office of Salmon Recovery

Session Details

With Seattle-based Long Live the Kings, the Pacific Salmon Foundation is scoping a Pacific Coast Salmon and Climate Initiative. The initial workshops focused on developing purpose and strategy to inform future collaborative actions that will foster climate resiliency for salmon populations from California to the Arctic.

Closing Plenary Session

Speakers

Michael Meneer, President & CEO at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Stu Barnes, Executive Director at First Nations Fisheries Council of B.C.

Kaili Levesque, Associate Deputy Minister at Fisheries & Oceans Canada

Keynote - A Pathway to a Made in BC Salmon Recovery Model - What have we learned? What are next steps for salmon?



Tom Rutherford

Director of Strategic Prior at Cowichan Water Board

Moderated Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A - A Pathway to a Made in BC Salmon Recovery Model

Session Speakers

Jason Hwang, Chief Program Officer at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Stu Barnes, Executive Director at First Nations Fisheries Council of B.C.

Tom Rutherford, Director of Strategic Prior at Cowichan Water Board

James Mack, Government of BC

Sarah Murdoch, Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative at Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Brenda Gaertner, Mandell Pinder LLP

Closing Remarks

Michael Meneer, President & CEO at Pacific Salmon Foundation

Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship at Government of British Columbia

Video: https://youtu.be/gWplCyW_V0o