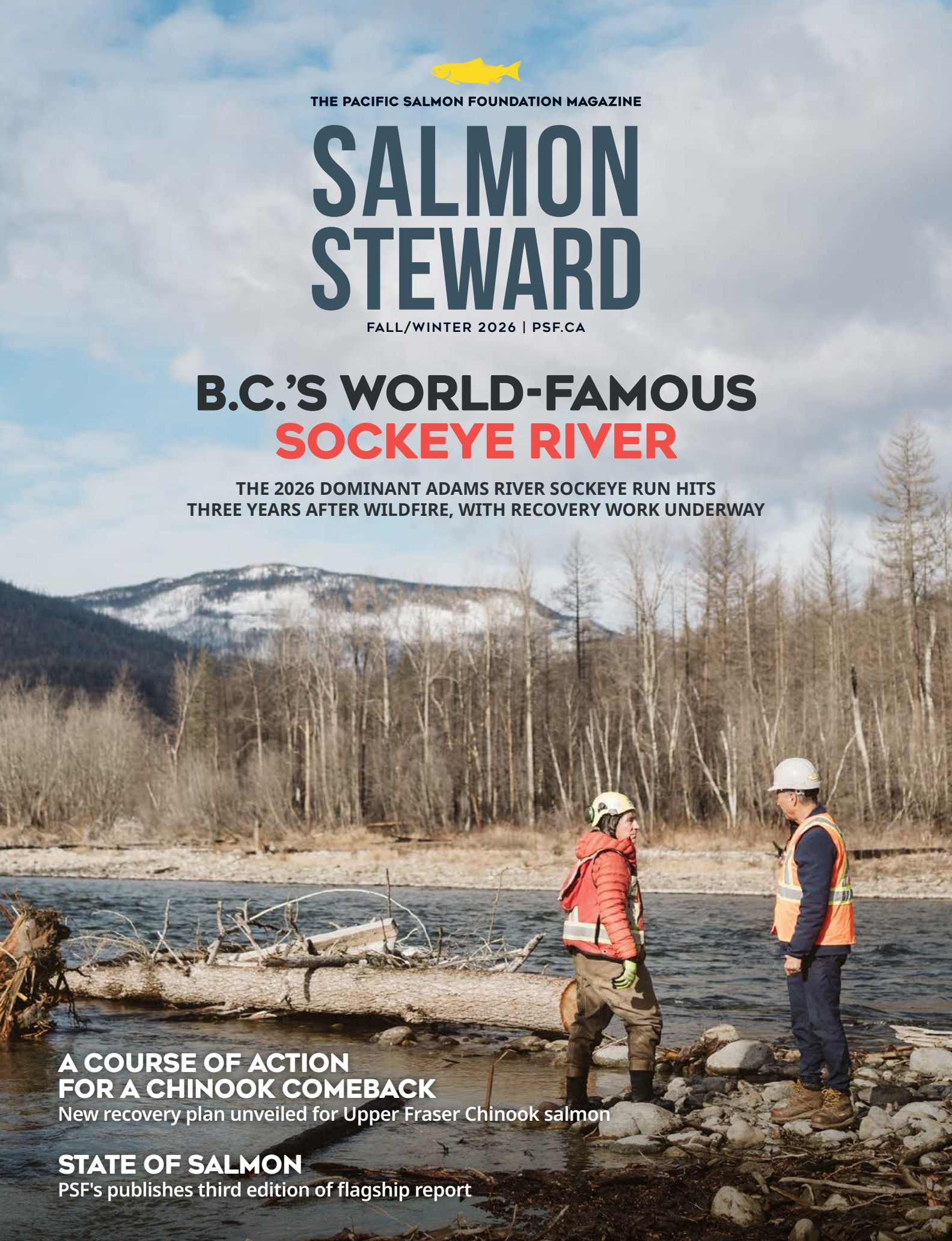
THE PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION MAGAZINE

SALMON STEWARD

FALL/WINTER 2026 | PSF.CA

B.C.'S WORLD-FAMOUS SOCKEYE RIVER

THE 2026 DOMINANT ADAMS RIVER SOCKEYE RUN HITS THREE YEARS AFTER WILDFIRE, WITH RECOVERY WORK UNDERWAY



A COURSE OF ACTION FOR A CHINOOK COMEBACK

New recovery plan unveiled for Upper Fraser Chinook salmon

STATE OF SALMON

PSF's publishes third edition of flagship report

SALMON STEWARD

FALL/WINTER 2026

PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION

ABOUT US

We're salmon first, salmon always. Our vision is healthy, sustainable, and naturally diverse populations of Pacific salmon for the benefit of ecosystems and people for generations to come.

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MIX
Paper from responsible sources
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PSF visited Tŝilhqot'in National Government in September to see sockeye returning to Chilko Lake and the 2024 Chilcotin River landslide site, where PSF funded response monitoring.

CEO'S MESSAGE

The state of salmon is serious, with approximately half of all populations in B.C. and the Yukon in long-term decline, yet we have seen marginal gains for some species in recent years.

This is what we found in the third edition of the Pacific Salmon Foundation's State of Salmon Report (*see pages 10-11*). The latest edition, published fall 2026, underscores the urgency of habitat restoration, science, and recovery planning. But it also brings good news.

For example, up to 2025, sockeye are above their long-term average spawner abundance in nearly every region. We also found that sockeye and pink salmon on the Central Coast and Haida Gwaii moved from below to above their long-term averages. These incremental improvements show that salmon can rebound, motivating us to keep striving for recovery and resilience. Still, we remain cautious as we see in real time the 2026 Fraser sockeye runs returning far below expectations.

The newest report includes two new additions: a synthesis of six human-driven factors affecting salmon survival (climate change, aquaculture, fisheries, hatcheries, industrial development, and urban development), and a Path Forward outlining a more coordinated, collaborative approach to recovery and long-term resilience.

PSF acts at the nexus of science and action. We invest in the State of Salmon Report, other data tools, and monitoring efforts to raise public awareness about the state of salmon, build political will, and support evidence-based decision making. The State of Salmon connects critical information with the public, governments, and the private sector. With the right knowledge, we can act on the serious state of salmon and ensure these fish persist and thrive into the future.

This October, we brought 500 salmon leaders together at the second B.C. Salmon Recovery and Resilience Conference in Vancouver. Participants joined from British Columbia, the Yukon, Atlantic Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Washington State to share science, align priorities, and strengthen partnerships.

The conference reminded me that no single organization or individual can tackle the most pressing issues facing salmon alone. It will take all of us, working collaboratively and strategically, to achieve positive outcomes for Pacific salmon. That includes First Nations, environmental non-profits, Crown governments, researchers and scientists, and communities, all working toward a shared goal: healthy, abundant, and naturally diverse salmon populations for generations to come.

After seeing all the passion, knowledge, and skills in one room, I am inspired and confident in our collective ability to make a positive difference for Pacific salmon.

Michael Meneer
President & CEO,
Pacific Salmon Foundation

ON THE COVER:
Adams River restoration.

Cover photo (top): Brandon Deepwell

COMMUNITY CORNER

FRASER RIVER EXPEDITION

This summer, the Fraser Riverkeeper led a 30-day, 1,375-kilometre-long expedition including a swim relay, rivershed walk, and canoe and raft journey to grow the public mandate of protecting 30 per cent of the Fraser River watershed by 2030. PSF was a proud sponsor of the event, and participated in the final canoe leg of the journey.

PEOPLE FOR SALMON COME TOGETHER AT COMOX GALA

At PSF's Comox Gala Dinner & Auction this September, we raised $65,000 thanks to everyone who attended, bid, donated, and sponsored this fundraising effort. This support is helping expand salmon stewardship and habitat restoration across the Comox Valley.

MAMALILIKULLA IPCA TOUR

PSF met with Mamalilikulla First Nation Chief Winidi (John Powell) and his team in Port McNeill to tour the Mamalilikulla Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA).

Established in 2021, the Mamalilikulla IPCA's objectives include developing strategies, zoning, and restoration plans to recover local salmon. PSF's Community Salmon Program has provided $75,000 toward this work.

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SAVE THE DATE!

PSF's 2027 Vancouver Gala Dinner & Auction will take place on **Friday, April 16** at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

PSF.CA/EVENTS

CENTURY-OLD COMOX FARM SEES SALMON RESTORATION

Juvenile salmon from Brooklyn Creek.

Five years ago, the Brooklyn Creek Watershed Society near Comox on Vancouver Island almost shut down for good. That was until they received a $19,850 PSF grant, allowing them to launch and sustain critical restoration efforts in Brooklyn Creek. Since 2021, the project has drawn in an impressive number of volunteers — and salmon — to the stream.

"That initial grant from the Pacific Salmon Foundation changed things. It invigorated our organization, allowed us to bring new members on board, and provided long-term stability for our project. It was a turning point," says Christine Hodgson, past president of the Society.

With more than 100 volunteers, additional PSF grants, and support from local businesses, the Brooklyn Creek stewards are now overseeing the project's fifth year in the stream's upper reaches.

The latest phase will further revitalize coho habitat within Birkdale Farm, a historic, family-run farm once known for its grass-fed Ayrshire dairy cows.

"This area of Brooklyn Creek had great potential, but it was a homogeneous, scoured channel prone to flash flooding and drying out. Our goal was to bring back the diverse habitat features that coho need to rear and spawn successfully," says John Neilson, the Society's current president.

The stream's riparian corridors at Birkdale Farm had become overwhelmed by invasive species, and its channel had lost critical complexity due to decades of straightening and dredging.

Local crews have since added more than 15 pools, 20 large woody debris structures, 300 cubic metres of spawning gravel, and 4,000 native plants that are now outcompeting the invasives.

These efforts build on downstream restoration completed in earlier years, which cleared the way for coho to move freely upstream into Birkdale Farm. Pink salmon also spawn in the lower reaches.

The restoration project is unique in benefiting from strong support from the landowner, clear lines of communication with local government, and generous contributions from local businesses.

"There are still some members of the public who are surprised to hear that salmon are in this tiny stream, so we're making sure that everyone is aware of its value. We've got a jewel here, and we want to save it. It's been very rewarding to see a healthier watershed that is appreciated by the community," says Neilson.

The number of young coho counted in the stream this spring was the highest in 15 years. Building on last year's success, creek walkers expect to see returning adult coho in every newly restored area at Birkdale Farm this fall.

PSF is proud to have supported Brooklyn Creek streamkeepers with $357.9k in funding since 2007, generating more than $1.1 million in total value for salmon conservation. Every year, PFS's Community Salmon Program supports more than 150 local stewardship projects across B.C. and the Yukon.

Learn more:
PSF.CA/COMMUNITYSALMON

Brooklyn Creek runs through Birkdale Farm.

Photos: Brandon Deepwell

PSF's Dr. Emiliano Di Cicco in the lab.

Photo: Alanna D Photography

> **This is the first time tenacibaculosis has been diagnosed in wild-caught fish.**
>
> — **PSF's Dr. Emiliano Di Cicco**

DISEASE DISCOVERY IN WILD CHINOOK

Researchers from the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) and University of British Columbia (UBC) have recorded the first known detection of a bacterial disease, tenacibaculosis, in wild Chinook salmon. Diagnosing fish disease in the wild is notoriously difficult, since sick fish usually die before they can be observed.

Tenacibaculosis causes lethargy, loss of balance, abnormal swimming, and ulcers on the skin, fins, and mouth, often leading to mortality. The disease is well known in farmed salmon, where controlled conditions make it easier to detect, and it's a leading cause of death for Atlantic salmon raised in B.C.'s open-net pen farms.

PSF and UBC's study, published in *Scientific Reports*, marks the first known observation of tenacibaculosis in wild Pacific salmon.

"Once a wild fish gets sick, it's often caught by a predator quickly, or it becomes too weak to feed and eventually starves. That's why finding a sick fish in the wild is so difficult," says PSF's Dr. Emiliano Di Cicco, lead author of the study.

Dr. Di Cicco and his co-researchers traced the source of the disease to a common marine bacterium, *Tenacibaculum dicentrarchi*.

Tenacibaculum bacteria occur naturally in the ocean, but previous research shows they are more frequently detected near active salmon farms in B.C.

"This is the first time tenacibaculosis has been diagnosed in wild-caught fish, providing empirical evidence that *Tenacibaculum* bacteria can negatively affect wild fish health and contribute to disease burden in B.C. wild salmon," Dr. Di Cicco adds.

These findings offer new evidence not accounted for in Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) existing risk assessment for *Tenacibaculum maritimum*, a close relative of *T. dicentrarchi*, which concluded the bacteria are unlikely to cause disease in wild fish. As a result, these bacteria aren't currently regulated in B.C. as a risk to wild Pacific salmon, and species like *T. dicentrarchi* aren't considered at all.

AN UNEXPECTED BREAKTHROUGH

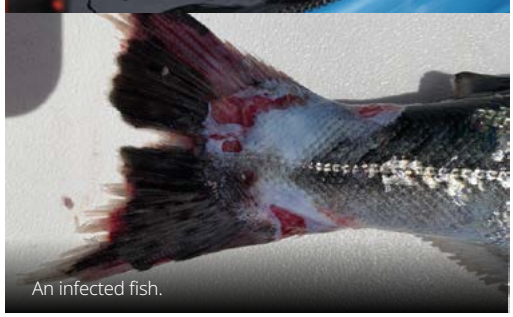
This novel scientific discovery came as a surprise.

UBC's Pacific Salmon Ecology and Conservation Laboratory was sampling wild Chinook from B.C.'s Barkley Sound for a study on recreational catch-and-release fishing when some fish began developing skin ulcers and dying.

To investigate, UBC partnered with PSF, DFO's Pacific Biological Station, the University of Toronto, and the University of California, Davis.

"A few days into the study, we noticed unusual bacterial lesions developing on some of the fish, just in front of the tail. We reached out to Emiliano, and his team quickly helped us determine what was going on," says Katie Zinn from UBC's Pacific Salmon Ecology and Conservation Lab, and co-author of the study.

A Chinook salmon is sampled.



An infected fish.

Photos: (top) UBC's Pacific Salmon Ecology and Conservation Lab (bottom) Emiliano Di Cicco

Of the 99 fish sampled, 16 per cent showed signs of tenacibaculosis, with high associated mortality.

"We spend enormous effort trying to understand why wild salmon die in the ocean. This study gives us one of the clearest pieces of evidence that links bacterial disease to mortality in wild Pacific salmon," says Zinn.

Handling during capture and holding may have increased the fish's susceptibility to infection by damaging the protective mucus layer on their skin and fins, researchers note. Fish with less scale loss and fin damage were more likely to avoid infection and survive.

The next step, the study's authors say, is determining what causes the disease in wild salmon and how fish become infected.

Skwlāx Guardians performing restoration work in the Adams.

Photo: Brandon Deepwell

ASHES IN THE CURRENT:
HOPE AND RECOVERY IN A FAMOUS B.C. SALMON RIVER

2026 is a dominant year for Adams River sockeye returning home, but the landscape is almost unrecognizable.

Witnessing the sockeye salmon migration at the Adams River is one of Canada's greatest natural events.

Every four years during a 'dominant' cycle, hundreds of thousands to millions of bright red sockeye salmon make the 450-kilometre journey from the mouth of Fraser River near Vancouver, all the way into the Interior of British Columbia. It's a gruelling journey through canyons and rapids, all while avoiding predators, battling low flows, and persisting through high river temperatures.

2026 is a dominant sockeye year, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world to the Shuswap region of B.C. to see the end of this epic migration in October.

This year, the landscape looked drastically different from the previous dominant sockeye cycle in 2022. That's because large swathes of the watershed were decimated by the Bush Creek East wildfire three summers ago.

The fire ripped through 45,000 hectares, forced 8,000 people to evacuate, destroyed 270 properties, and caused $240 million in damage. What used to be a lush green forest full of hiking trails is now a barren vista of burned trees.

ENHANCING CRITICAL SPAWNING HABITAT

The devastation spurred on a determined group of partners set on tackling the impacts from the wildfire

A comparison of the Adams River before and after the 2023 Bush Creek East wildfire.

Photos: Shuswap Tourism, Brandon Deepwell

Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw Kukpi7 (Chief) Dianne Francois and PSF's Jason Hwang at the Tsútswecw Provincial Park viewing platform.

Adding woody debris into the Adams River to reintroduce habitat complexity.

Photos: Brandon Deepwell

> **Salmon mean everything to us as a community. This is their home.**
>
> — **Kukpi7 (Chief) Dianne Francois, Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw**

and historical changes to the river. Initial talks turned into a detailed restoration project, which began earlier this year in the Lower Adams River to improve salmon spawning habitat.

Experts have found that the river has changed substantially in the last couple of decades, negatively affecting habitat like pools and side channels that salmon rely on. Instead of braiding into multiple channels, the river has become one fast-flowing channel, where salmon struggle to find suitable gravel to lay their eggs.

Led by local First Nation Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw, along with DFO, BC Parks, and PSF, work began in March 2026 to restore the Adams' natural channel complexity. The goal was to redistribute flows from one channel into many channels. To enable this change, excavators strategically placed woody debris in the river to divert the flow and enhance spawning habitat in time for the scheduled arrival of sockeye in the fall.

"Salmon mean everything to us as a community. This is their home," says Kukpi7 (Chief) Dianne Francois, Skwlāx te Secwepemcúlecw. "This restoration project is all about making sure that our salmon have a place to spawn when they come back."

The Pacific Salmon Foundation contributed $250,000 to the restoration work.

"We're investing now for future generations and we're making a difference," says Jason Hwang, Chief Program Officer, Pacific Salmon Foundation. "It's going to take all of us, but this project proves that when we work together, we can do great things for salmon."

VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

In addition to the in-river restoration project, PSF has provided $47,100 to the 2026 Salute to the Sockeye Festival held by The Adams River Salmon Society in dominant cycle years, which took place from October 9 to 25.

The celebration in Tsútswecw Provincial Park allowed visitors to get up close to salmon, as well as attend interpretative guided tours, education sessions, and First Nations traditional ceremonies. A viewing platform in the park, which was constructed in 2014 with a $50,000 grant from PSF, offers some of the best views of spawning salmon in the province for kids and families.

"People love to come and see the spectacle of all the salmon at the Adams River. It's one of the few places that I've ever been where you can get up close and personal with millions of spawning sockeye salmon," says Hwang.

A CONCERNING TREND

At the time of writing, the exact number of sockeye salmon returning to the Adams River is still unknown, but the Pacific Salmon Commission has downgraded its initial forecast for Fraser River sockeye from 7.7 million to three million fish. About a million of these fish are part of a population that travels to the Adams region.

Sockeye returns to the Fraser, and to the Adams, have steadily declined in recent decades. Less than a million fish made it back to the Adams in 2014, 2018, and 2022. Not since 2010, when close to four million sockeye spawned in the Adams, have numbers truly reached the heights typically seen a hundred years ago.

This is just the beginning of restoration work in the Adams, which is set to continue in 2027.

This work was supported by the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund.

Support on-the-ground restoration to help revive salmon habitats in the Adams River and across the province.

PSF.CA/DONATE

PSF visits the Nicola River with local partners.

Photos: Brandon Deepwell

BUILDING SALMON RESILIENCE IN THE NICOLA RIVER

Salmon in the Nicola River, near Merritt, B.C., are caught in a perfect storm of flood, fire, and drought. Years of compounding habitat pressures came to a head in 2021, when summer wildfires were followed by an atmospheric river which sent floodwaters tearing through the valley, damaging salmon habitat. Some salmon populations in the Nicola are still holding steady or recovering; threatened Chinook are not.

"These Chinook come back during the hottest, driest part of the year. Since the flood, there are very few refuge areas where salmon can hold in cool water. It's a gauntlet of hot, shallow water," says Jess Urquhart, Manager of the Nicola Watershed Stewardship and Fisheries Authority department at Scw'exmx Tribal Council.

To drive salmon recovery, a consortium of partners comprising local First Nations (Scw'exmx Tribal Council, Nooaitch Indian Band, Lower Nicola Indian Band, and Cook's Ferry Indian Band), the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF), the Province of B.C., and Fisheries and Oceans Canada is installing engineered log jams (ELJs) in the Nicola, a first for the Interior.

"The salmon here were already in trouble before the massive flood and fires came through. It brought the Nicola up to the forefront as an urgent priority," says Jane Pendray, Manager of PSF's Salmon Recovery and Resilience team.

RELIEF FOR THREATENED CHINOOK

Though coho and steelhead will also benefit, a unique Chinook salmon population is at the heart of this project. These spring-type Chinook are known for spending a year or more in freshwater habitats as juveniles and are listed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada.

"The flood moved a lot of sediment and gravel around, widening the channel and filling in the pools that juvenile Chinook rely on to rear, forage, and avoid predators. These ELJ structures aim to replicate what nature would have done over time," says Pendray.

PSF has contributed $600,000 toward this $1.65-million initiative, part of a broader Indigenous-led recovery plan for the Nicola that includes stabilizing the riverbanks, reforestation, and drought management strategies. Two log jams were installed on Nooaitch Indian Band lands northwest of Merritt in July 2026. A third is slated for the winter, along with a monitoring program to track results.

INSTALLATION COMPLETED DESPITE AINSLIE CREEK FIRE

Climate change in the Nicola region was on full display this summer. The Ainslie Creek wildfire twice triggered evacuation orders for residents near the worksite.

As of September 1, it had burned 67,000 hectares. By diversifying flows, reconnecting the river to its floodplains, and helping riparian vegetation regrow, the ELJs are expected to buffer the river against both drought and flooding, and could improve wildfire resilience.

"The Nicola River is special because it's home. It's in our backyards," adds Urquhart.

"These salmon have been on a long journey. For me, success will mean seeing coho and Chinook using these log jams on their way home."

Urquhart's wish came true weeks after the ELJs were installed: many returning Chinook were seen already using the new habitat features, with more fish expected to return later in the fall.

WHAT ARE ENGINEERED LOG JAMS?

Engineered log jams are human-made structures of logs, boulders, and root wads that mimic the natural wood clusters in a healthy river. As water moves through and around them, it scours out deep pools and slows the current, creating vital refuges for salmon.

Upper Fraser Chinook salmon.

Photo: Fernando Lessa

A ROADMAP TO RECOVERY FOR UPPER FRASER CHINOOK

After an intense ocean journey, some returning Chinook salmon arrive at the mouth of the Fraser River near Vancouver with another 1,000 kilometres of migration still ahead of them before they reach their spawning grounds past Prince George.

Upper Fraser Chinook salmon are integral to B.C.'s cultures and ecosystems. Yet they've faced recent declines, and are well below their long-term average abundances, raising concerns for First Nations, communities, and researchers.

The Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA) and Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) are tackling this issue through a solutions-oriented approach.

Since 2023, UFFCA and PSF have brought together Indigenous Knowledge, local experience, and science to assess these fish.

The outcome is a new recovery plan, published in 2026, which summarizes the status of two major Upper Fraser Chinook populations, ranks their most pervasive threats, and highlights targeted actions to recover them.

"Upper Fraser Spring Chinook are an iconic population of Pacific salmon that need our help after experiencing long-term declines," says Gordon Sterritt, Executive Director, UFFCA. "This recovery plan is just the first step to bringing back these at-risk fish."

The report also shines light on recent increases in spawning abundance. Both populations have shown steady increases in abundance since 2019, culminating in a return of more than 20,000 Chinook in 2025, the largest return since 2014. This shows the resilience of these populations, indicating that habitat restoration efforts and decreased fishing pressures may be showing results.

However, recovery remains far from guaranteed.

MARINE COMPETITION

The report found that the highest-ranked threat to Upper Fraser Chinook is increased competition from industrial-scale hatchery pink and chum salmon released by Alaska, Russia, and Japan. These hatchery fish overlap and compete with Upper Fraser Chinook in the North Pacific Ocean.

Other major threats include freshwater drought conditions, such as changes in water levels and temperatures, pathogens and disease from fish farms, predation, and fishing.

"Upper Fraser Chinook salmon face numerous threats across their complex life cycle," says Eric Hertz, PSF's Team Lead of Science Mobilization. "But recovery is possible, and we now have a pragmatic pathway to start taking action."

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECOVERY

Ironically, one of Upper Fraser Chinook's biggest threats — hatchery fish — may also be one of the answers to boosting recovery, if done correctly.

In August, DFO announced more than $38 million in funding for a new Upper Fraser River Salmon Conservation Hatchery in Prince George in collaboration with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. This aligns with the report's recommendations to expand hatchery supplementation of Upper Fraser Chinook to help boost abundance.

Other top priorities include removing open-net pen salmon farms along migration routes, addressing mass-scale production of international hatchery salmon, improving freshwater conditions, and increasing research efforts to further improve understanding of these fish populations.

This report is just one of several salmon recovery plans in development in B.C. — something PSF is prioritizing through a new Recovery & Resilience team.

Targeted and localized plans aim to give at-risk salmon populations like Upper Fraser Chinook the best chance at recovering and persisting for future generations.

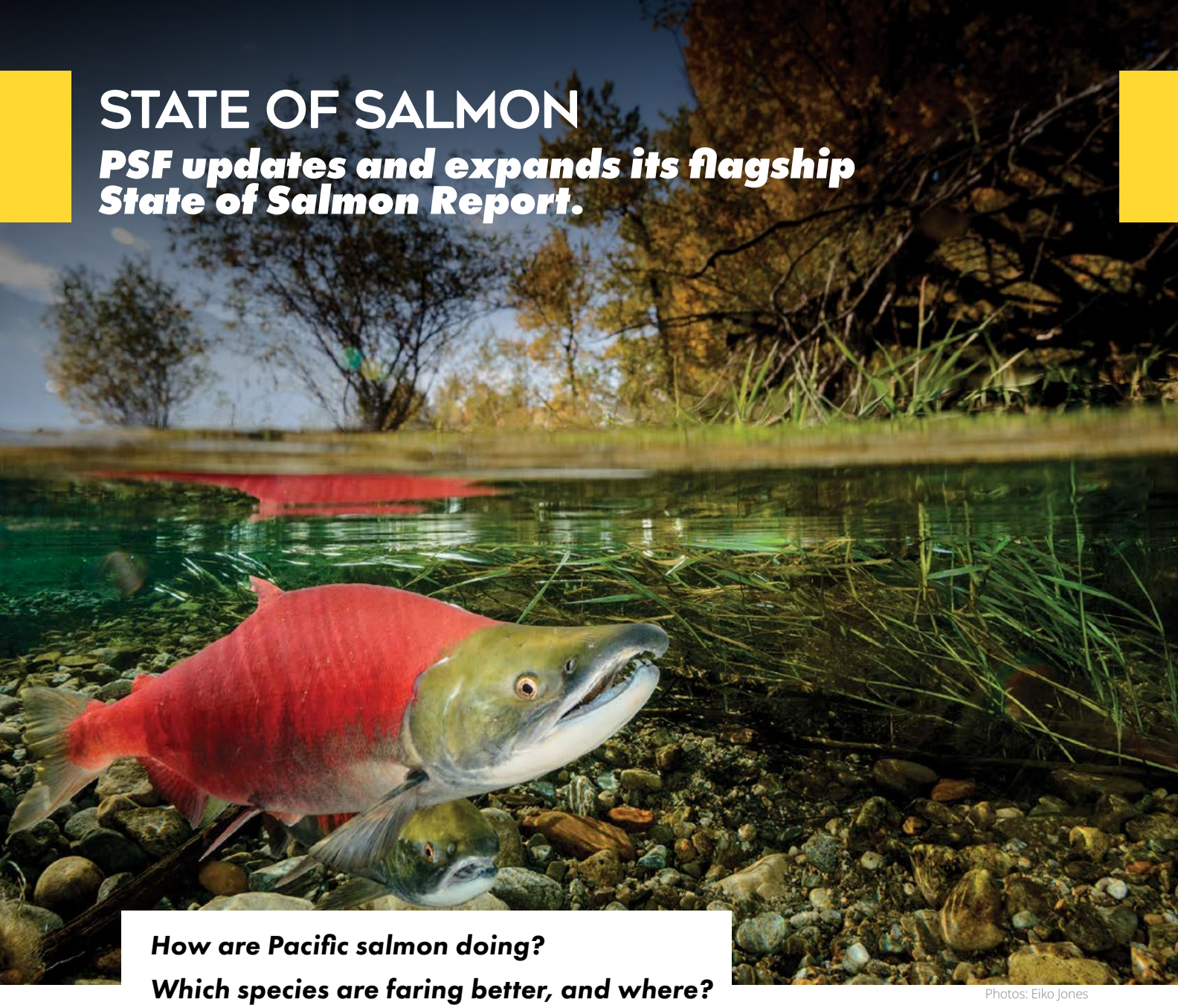
LEARN MORE:
PSF.CA/UFCHINOOK

The confluence of Stellako River and Fraser Lake, west of Prince George.

Photo: Fernando Lessa

STATE OF SALMON

PSF updates and expands its flagship State of Salmon Report.



Photos: Eiko Jones

How are Pacific salmon doing?

Which species are faring better, and where?

How are humans affecting salmon abundance?

What is the Path Forward for salmon?

The Pacific Salmon Foundation's State of Salmon Report offers insights on these critical questions.

First published in 2024 and updated annually, the report synthesizes the best available data across all six species of Pacific salmon, including steelhead, in British Columbia and the Yukon.

The report is the go-to source on how salmon are doing across all major Pacific salmon-bearing regions.

Three editions in, the report's original purpose has held: it remains the only publication of its kind to bring disparate data sets — from monitoring by individual First Nations to data from the Pacific Salmon Commission — into one accessible place.

The latest report indicates that the state of salmon in British Columbia and the Yukon remains precarious, with approximately half of all populations below their long-term average. Since the previous report, some species showed relatively strong returns in 2025, marginally improving the overall picture. For example, sockeye and pink salmon in the Central Coast and Haida Gwaii shifted from below to above their long-term average abundances.

Experts say these gains demonstrate the ability of salmon to rebound, while emphasizing that they come against a backdrop of widespread, long-term declines in abundance.

51% of all salmon populations across B.C. and the Yukon are **below** their long-term average.

"Incremental improvements in the state of salmon give us reason for cautious optimism. They show that, with the right actions and conditions, salmon have the capacity to rebound," says Dr. Katrina Connors, Senior Director, PSF.

"Yet we must not lose sight of the bigger picture. With 51 per cent of populations below their long-term average abundance, a good year doesn't undo decades of decline. What it does show us is that recovery is possible — and that sustained action for salmon recovery and resilience must remain a priority."

SOCKEYE STANDOUTS

Sockeye salmon stand out in the latest report: they are now above their long-term average spawner abundance in every region but one — East Vancouver Island & Mainland Inlets.

In 2025, some sockeye runs exceeded forecasts, including in the Fraser, where returns surpassed pre-season estimates threefold. A different story unfolded in 2026: In a dominant year of the natural four-year Fraser sockeye cycle, the run was downgraded by more than 60 per cent in season.

"Fraser sockeye exceeded expectations in 2025 and are falling short in 2026, reinforcing the need to interpret any single year of data with caution. Changing ocean conditions are making salmon returns increasingly uncertain," says Dr. Steph Peacock, PSF's Team Lead of Salmon Assessments.

Fraser sockeye spawner abundance is assessed at 60 per cent above the long-term average, bolstered by the 2025 return. However, total abundance — including harvest and mortality en route to spawning grounds — remains below average.

STEELHEAD CONCERNS PERSIST

Steelhead have consistently been a cause for concern in PSF's State of Salmon Reports, and this edition is no exception.

Steelhead are in serious decline in nearly every region. In the Columbia, PSF has assessed steelhead as 'critically low' and at risk of local extinction. In 2025, just one natural-origin steelhead spawner was detected in the British Columbian portion of the Okanagan basin.

Some steelhead populations are approaching record lows. In the Fraser watershed, the 2025 test fishery caught no Thompson River summer steelhead — a first in its 40-year history.

In-season reports from the Skeena River suggest returns may be stronger than expected in 2026, but concerns remain. Skeena steelhead abundance has trended downward in recent years, and as recently as 2021, saw their lowest return on record.

Furthermore, sparse steelhead monitoring across the province limits our understanding of the extent and severity of declines.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE STATE OF SALMON REPORT

This year's report also introduces two new content elements. The first is a synthesis of major human-driven factors affecting salmon survival. Across their complex life cycle, salmon face pressures that accumulate and interact. The report examines six of them: climate change, aquaculture, fisheries, hatcheries, industrial development, and urban development.

The 2026 edition also presents a Path Forward, outlining a more coordinated, collaborative approach to salmon recovery and long-term resilience.

"We developed the Path Forward in response to what our reporting has consistently shown: salmon are facing widespread, long-term declines. But the Path Forward is deliberately future-focused and solutions-driven. It shows that there is a way forward and gives us reason for hope about the future of Pacific salmon," says Dr. Connors.

As the Path Forward concludes: "Salmon have shown an extraordinary capacity to recover. Create the right conditions, and there is every reason to believe they will thrive again."

VISIT STATEOFSALMON.CA

Special thanks to the Province of B.C. and Sitka Foundation for supporting PSF's State of Salmon Report.

Earl Jessiman (right) with his longtime fishing friend, Derek Harris (left), celebrating Earl's 70th birthday in 2025 on a fishing trip in Haida Gwaii.

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR SALMON

For four decades, Earl Jessiman of Bedford, Nova Scotia, has fished for salmon in British Columbia. He's watched the ecosystem change, from smaller fish and lower abundance to warming waters.

"I've seen the effects firsthand, and it's been an eye-opener," says Earl. "The Pacific Salmon Foundation gets results, and I hope my contribution helps restore the system to its former abundance."

Concerned by what he's witnessed, Earl and his wife Tracy have arranged bequests in their estate to PSF, creating a lasting legacy for salmon conservation and recovery.

Earl's early career was in hockey coaching, followed by more than 30 years running a financial planning and securities business. He still returns to B.C. every year to go fishing.

All these years later, what keeps him coming back? "The fishing is about half of it," he says. "The rest is nature — killer whales, eagles. It's a thrill how great nature is out here on the West Coast."

Like Earl, you can help save and restore Pacific salmon for generations to come. To learn about leaving a gift in your will to the Pacific Salmon Foundation, please visit *PSF.CA/LEGACY*

STATE OF SALMON
HOW ARE PACIFIC SALMON DOING?
PSF's State of Salmon Report summarizes the best available data to provide an overview of all six species across B.C. and the Yukon.
stateofsalmon.ca
PHOTO: EIKO JONES
PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION
PM 40065475