

Columbia & Snake Rivers North of Falcon 2025 Salmon & Steelhead Seasons

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Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**

Outline

- Harvest Management Jurisdictions
- NOF/PFMC Schedule & Commenting
- Environmental Factors, Forecasts & Returns
- 2024 Fishery Summaries
- 2025 Forecasts & Proposed Seasons



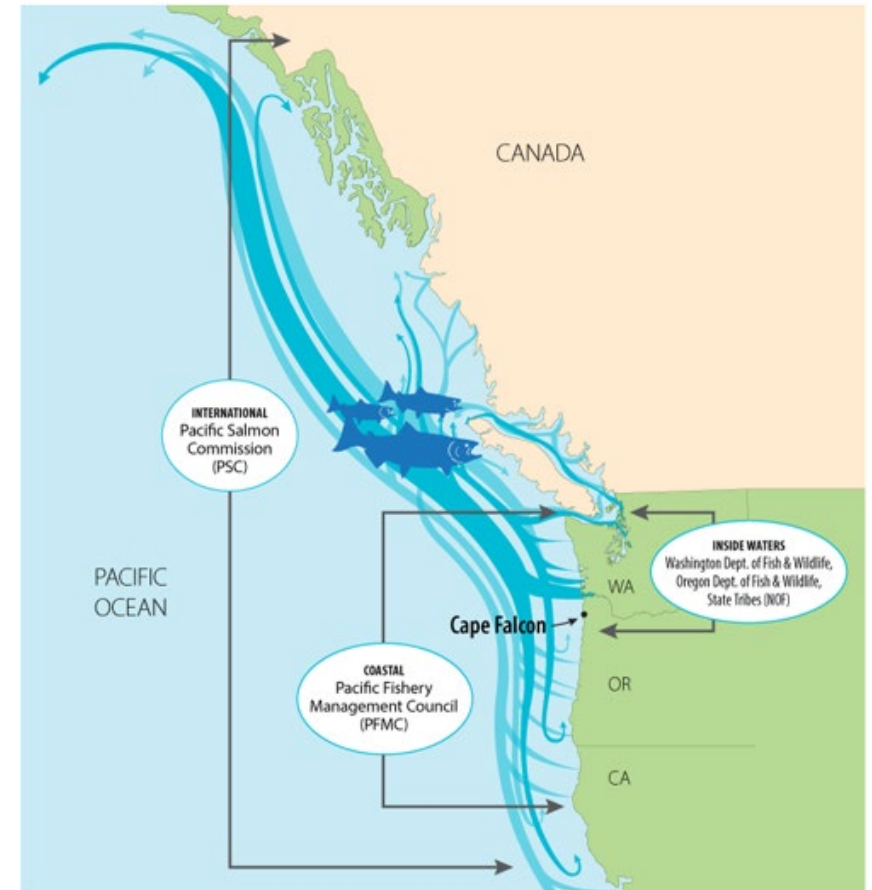
What is North of Falcon?

- North of Falcon is the annual, cooperative process to plan most salmon seasons. In the Columbia River, upriver summer steelhead seasons are incorporated given overlap with summer/fall salmon seasons.
- The name refers to waters north of Oregon's Cape Falcon, which marks the southern boundary for management purposes.
- One component of a larger salmon season-setting process that also involves the state, tribal governments, federal regulators, other U.S. states, and Canada.

What guides North of Falcon?

Fishery managers must weigh many factors when developing salmon seasons, including:

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) constraints
- Commission policy
- Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations
- Tribal co-management: Treaty tribes manage their own fisheries, sharing data and splitting harvest with the state
- Extensive monitoring and evaluation of fisheries statewide



Inside, coastal, and international waters management

Jurisdictions

- **Pacific Salmon Treaty** - U.S. and Canada agreement to carry out their fisheries and enhancement programs on transboundary salmon stocks to prevent over-fishing and ensure equal benefits of salmon originating in their waters. Governed by the Pacific Salmon Commission comprised of representatives from Canada, AK, CA, ID, OR, and WA.
- **Pacific Fishery Management Council** - One of eight fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council has jurisdiction over the U.S. West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (3-200 miles offshore) and manages commercial, recreational and tribal fisheries for about 119 species of salmon, groundfish, coastal pelagic species, and highly migratory species in Federal waters.

Jurisdictions

- *U.S. v. Washington* - Commonly known as the Boldt Decision. A court decision that reaffirmed the reserved right of WA Treaty Tribes to harvest salmon and steelhead alongside the state as co-managers. Covers inland marine (e.g., Puget Sound) and freshwater lakes/rivers.
- *U.S. v. Oregon* - A federal court proceeding issued in 1969 that enforces the fishing rights of Columbia River treaty tribes (Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Warm Springs). The associated management plan details salmon and steelhead allocations between treaty and non-treaty fishers. *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (2018-2027) provides treaty/non-treaty allocations and ESA limits.

Jurisdictions

- Other:
 - **WDFW & ODFW Policies** - Columbia River policies that detail non-treaty salmon allocations between recreational and commercial, and lower and upper river fisheries.
 - **Wanapum Band RCW** - WA state law established in 1939 requiring the state to reserve an allocation of salmon to the Wanapum Band for C&S purposes.
 - **WDFW-CCT Share Agreement** - A formal agreement between WDFW and CCT (Colville Confederated Tribes) that reserves an allocation of salmon and steelhead to the CCT for C&S purposes.
 - **ESA** - Due to the year-round presence of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead (juveniles+adults), WDFW must have federal government coverage to conduct fisheries. Allowable ESA impacts provide 'no jeopardy' to recovering stocks. Several permits throughout Columbia River do have creel survey requirements.

2025 NOF Public Meeting Schedule

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-meetings>

Date	Meeting
February 28	Statewide forecast meeting – Olympia, WA
March 5-11	Pacific Fishery Management Council – Vancouver, WA
March 18	Columbia River Fisheries; Northeast of McNary (Hanford, Upper Columbia, Snake) – Wenatchee, WA (6-8pm)
March 19	North of Falcon #1; Statewide proposals – Olympia, WA
March 24	PFMC public hearing; WA ocean – Westport, WA
March 25	North of Falcon #2; Statewide proposals – Lynnwood, WA
April 3	Columbia River Fisheries; Buoy 10 to Hwy 395 Bridge – Ridgefield, WA
April 9-15	Pacific Fishery Management Council – San Jose, California

Public Input

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon>

Fishing & Shellfishing / Managing fish populations / North of Falcon

Fishing & Shellfishing

- Fishing regulations
- Shellfishing regulations
- Places to go fishing
- Fishing and stocking reports
- Fishing and shellfishing basics
- Managing fish populations**
- Tribal fishing
- Commercial fishing
- Fishing events
- Monofilament recovery and recycling program
- Where to buy Washington seafood

North of Falcon

Each year, state, federal and tribal fishery managers gather to plan the Northwest's recreational and commercial salmon fisheries. This series of meetings – involving representatives from federal, state, and tribal governments, recreational and commercial fishing industries, and members of the public – is known as the North of Falcon process.

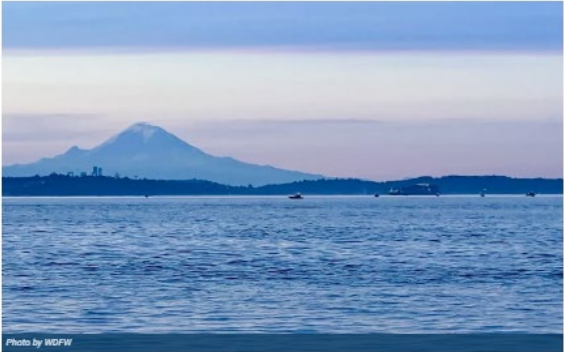


Photo by WDFW

Salmon anglers fishing in central Puget Sound (Marine Area 10) with Mount Rainier, the City of Seattle, and commercial shipping vessels visible in the background.

North of Falcon overview

Learn about the North of Falcon process, where state, federal, and tribal fishery managers collaborate to set annual salmon fishing seasons for the Northwest.

Public meeting schedule

Find the complete schedule of 2025 public meetings.

Season summaries and agreed fisheries

See information on summaries, proposals, and agreed fisheries for Puget Sound, Columbia River, coastal, and ocean fisheries.

Forecasts, model runs, and management objectives

View preseason forecasts, model runs, and management objectives for salmon and steelhead.

Public input

Submit public comments on the North of Falcon salmon season proposals.


Salmon and steelhead co-management

Learn how WDFW and tribes work together to conserve and sustainably manage fish populations to provide opportunities for recreational, commercial, and ceremonial and subsistence harvest.

North of Falcon resources

Access key resources on fishery management, including federal and tribal information, Columbia River updates, and the latest WDFW blogs.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife ▶ 2025 North of Falcon- Recreational Fisheries CR-101



Comment on the preproposal notice Take the Demographic Survey

[View the CR-101 Rule Preproposal](#)

Note that a rule proposal is still in development and this preproposal notice may only contain broad generalizations of possible changes to the subject rule. More specifics will become available when a CR-102 rule proposal is made available for comment.

Please submit your comments for this rule making topic

Your name (optional)

Name

Comment

Live

CR-101 Preproposal Comments

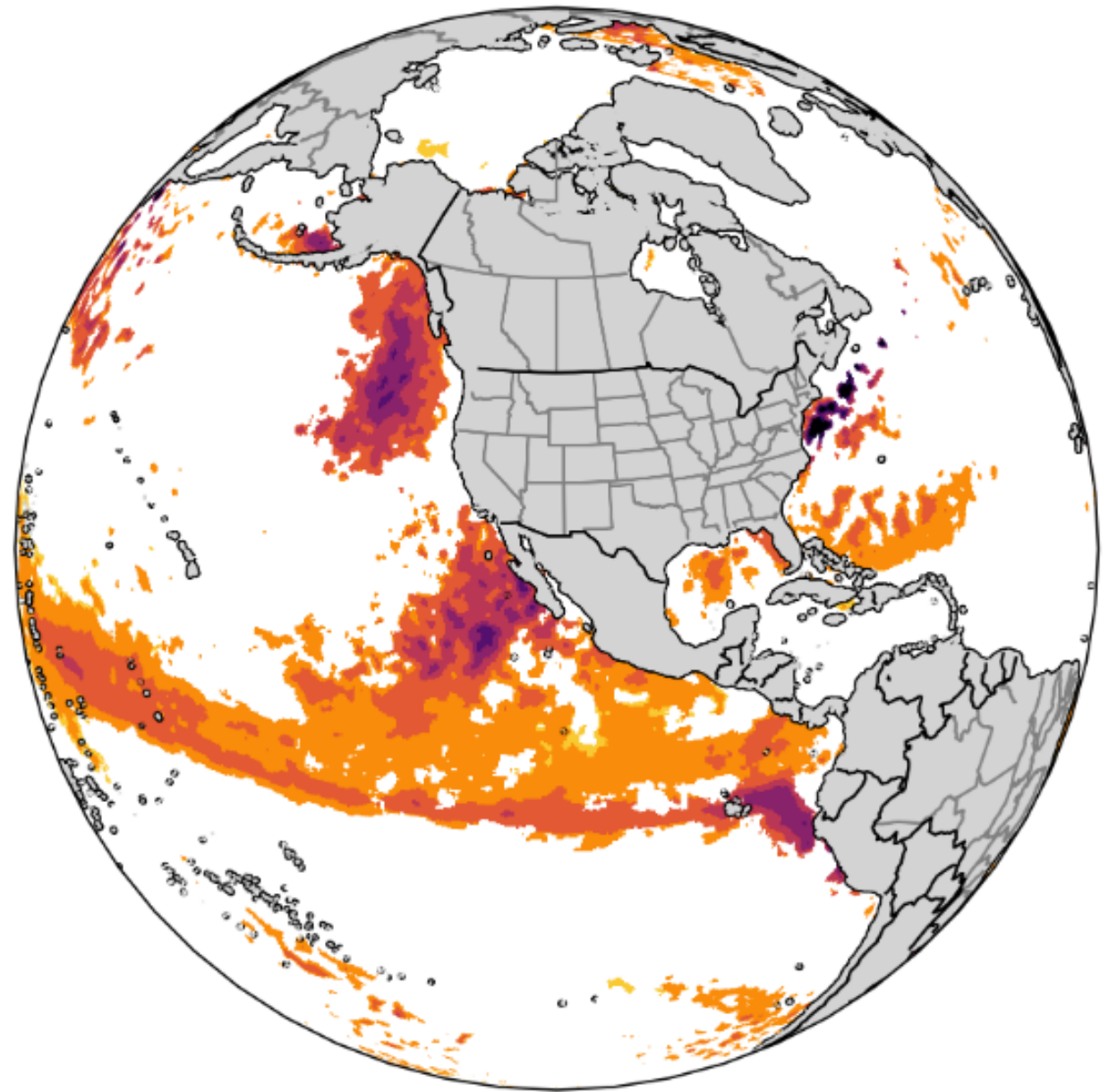
Planned

CR-102 Rule Proposal Comment Period

Please note: All comments received by WDFW are part of the public record and will be available for public viewing - so please do not include private information in the text of your comments. Comments are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act, RCW 42.56.

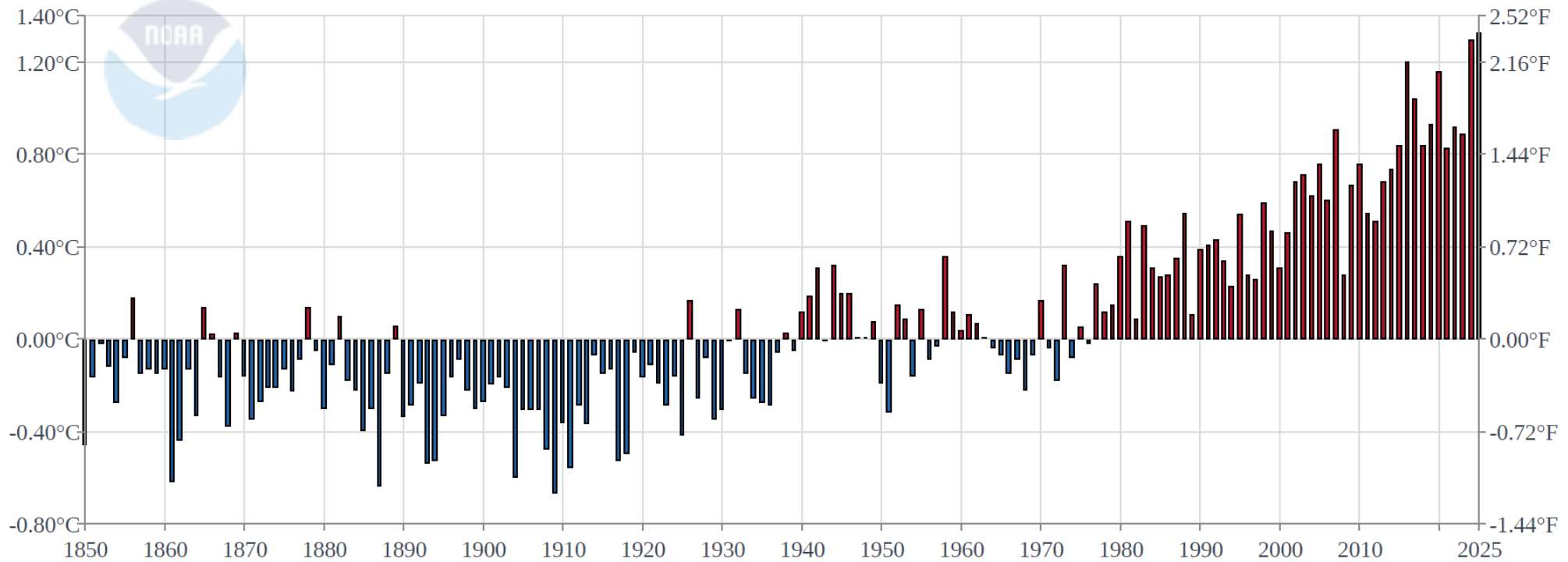
Environmental Factors

- Physical Environmental Conditions
- Biological Response
- Marine Environmental Forecasts



Physical Environmental Conditions

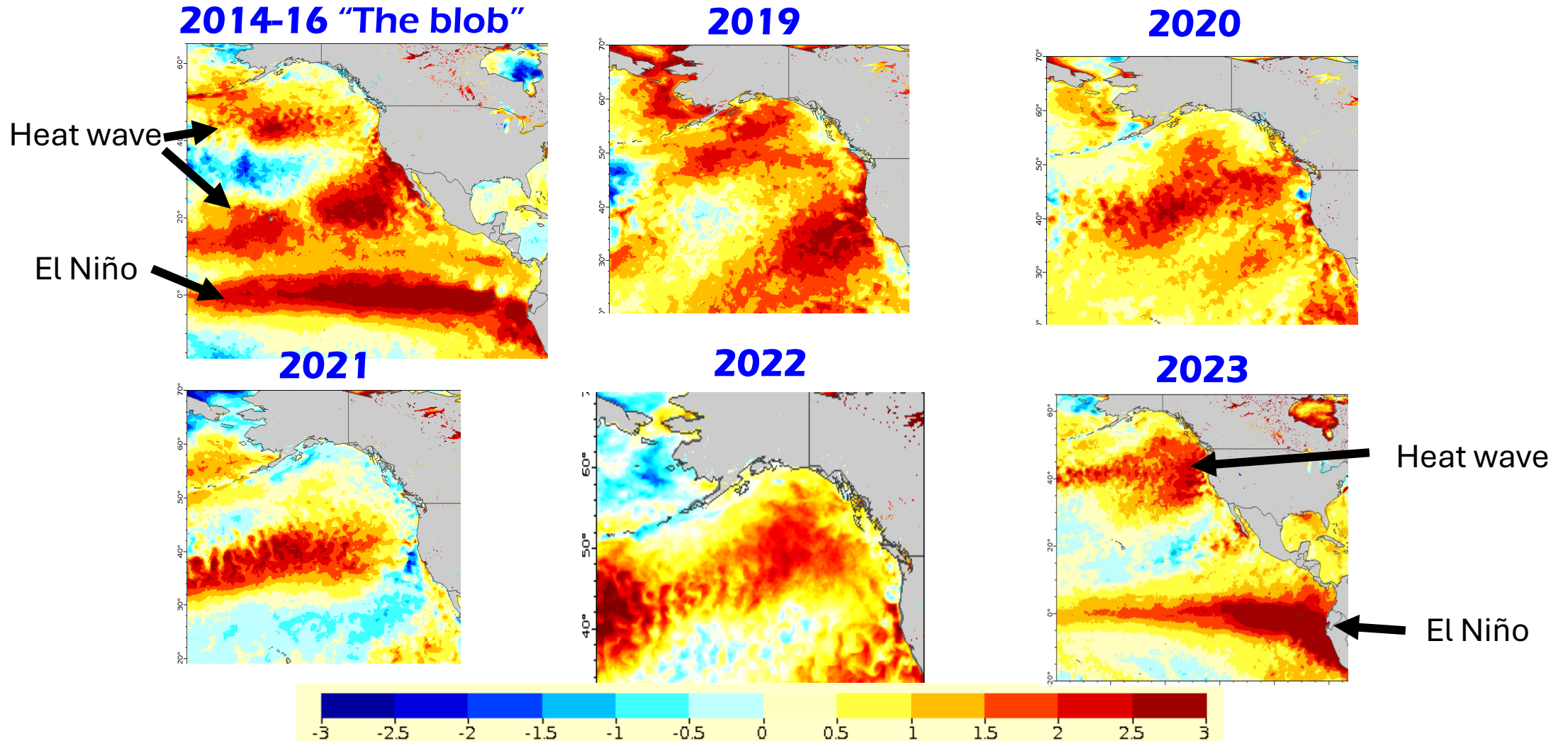
Global Land and Ocean Temperature Anomalies



- January 2025 global sea surface temperatures were above 20-year average and warmest January on record

Physical Environmental Conditions

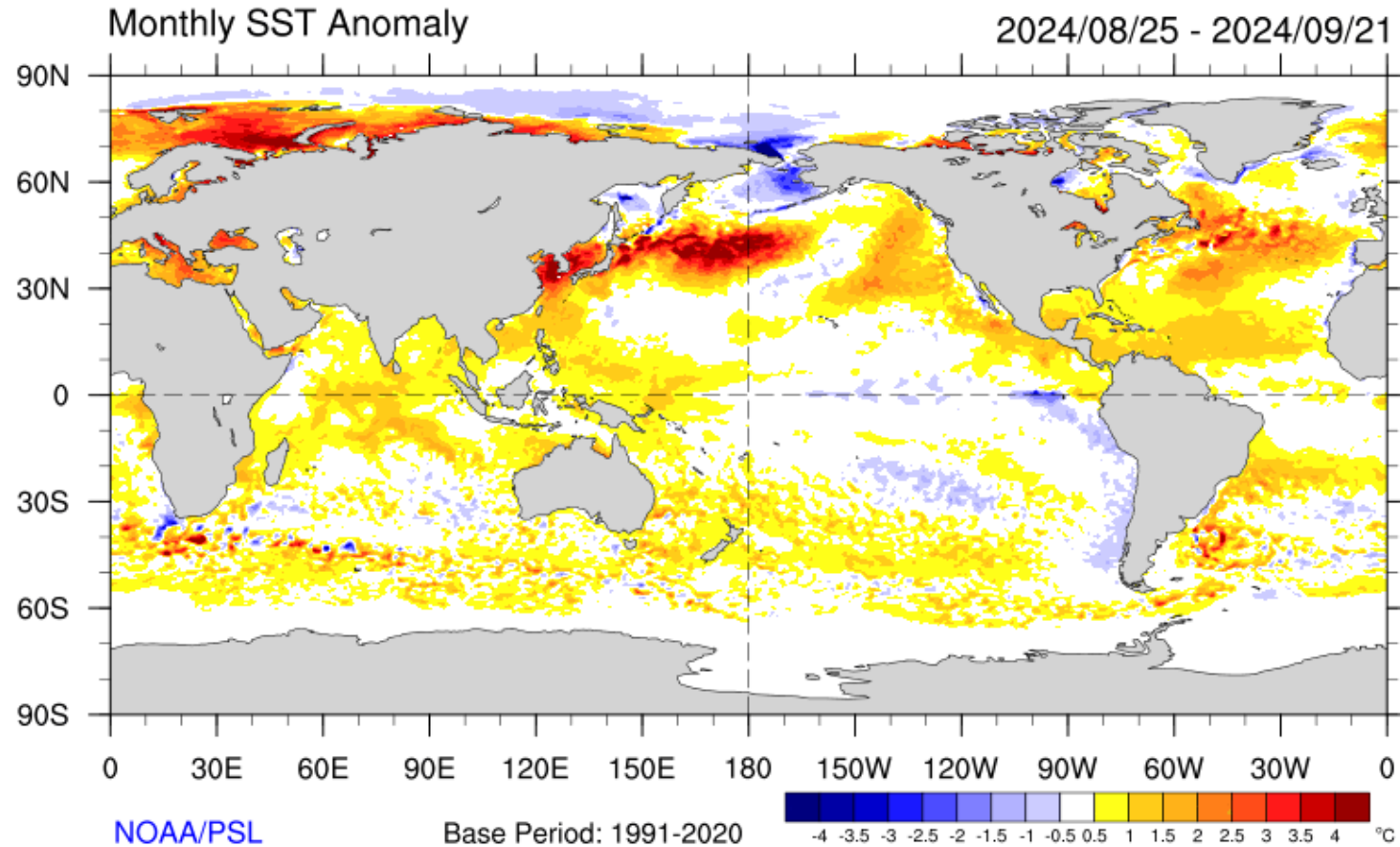
Recent NE Pacific marine heat waves (September)



Physical Environmental Conditions

Recent NE Pacific marine heat waves

September 2024

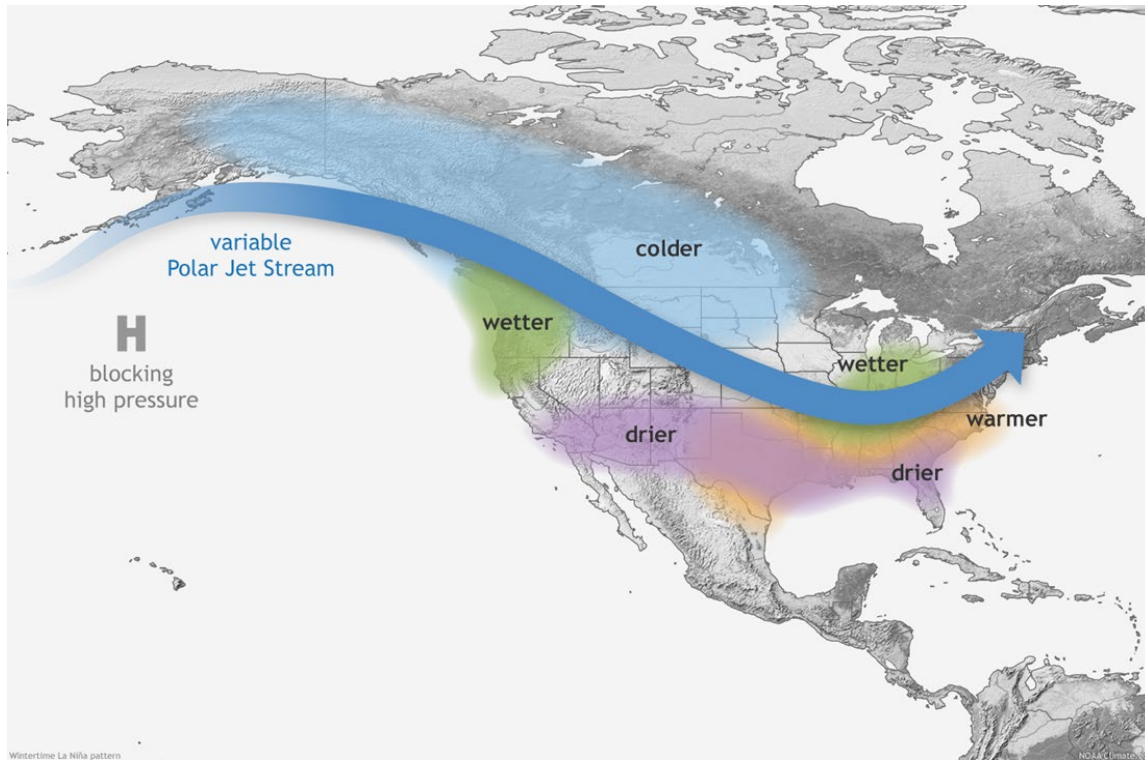


- Mass of hot water in western pacific and some smaller more dispersed in eastern pacific

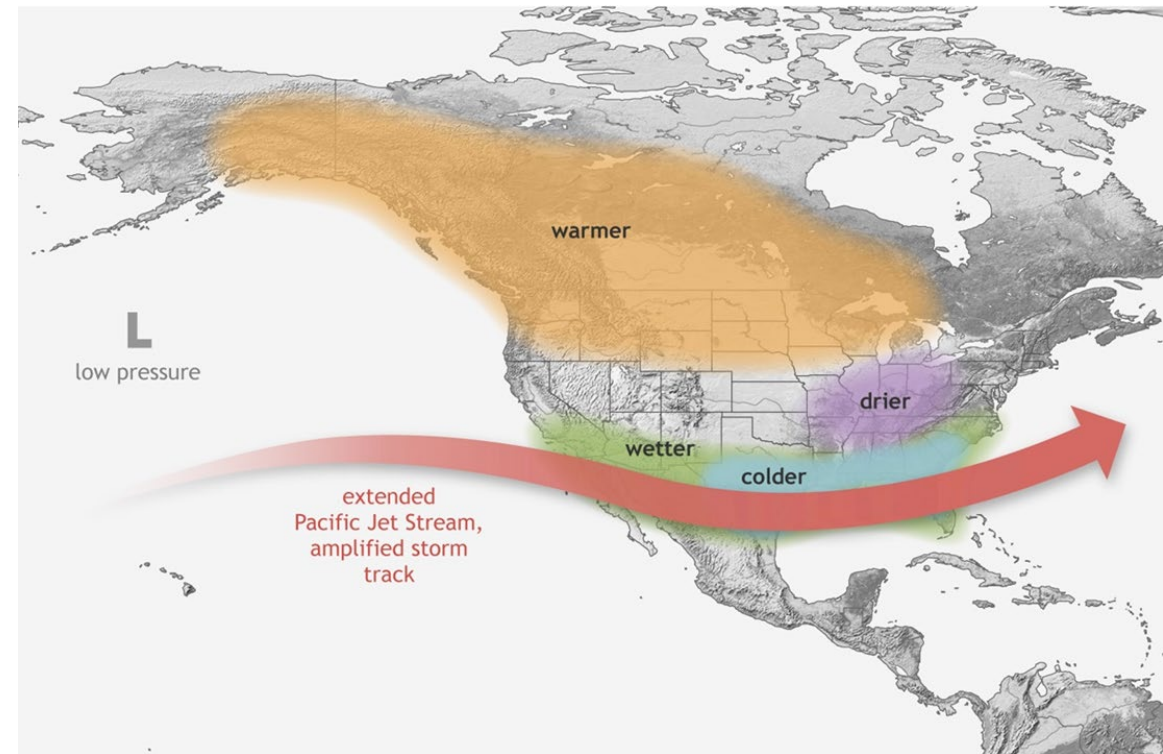
Physical Environmental Conditions

El Niños / La Niñas

- El Niños and La Niñas are warm and cool tropical phenomena that impact global weather
- A primary predictor of global climate disruptions



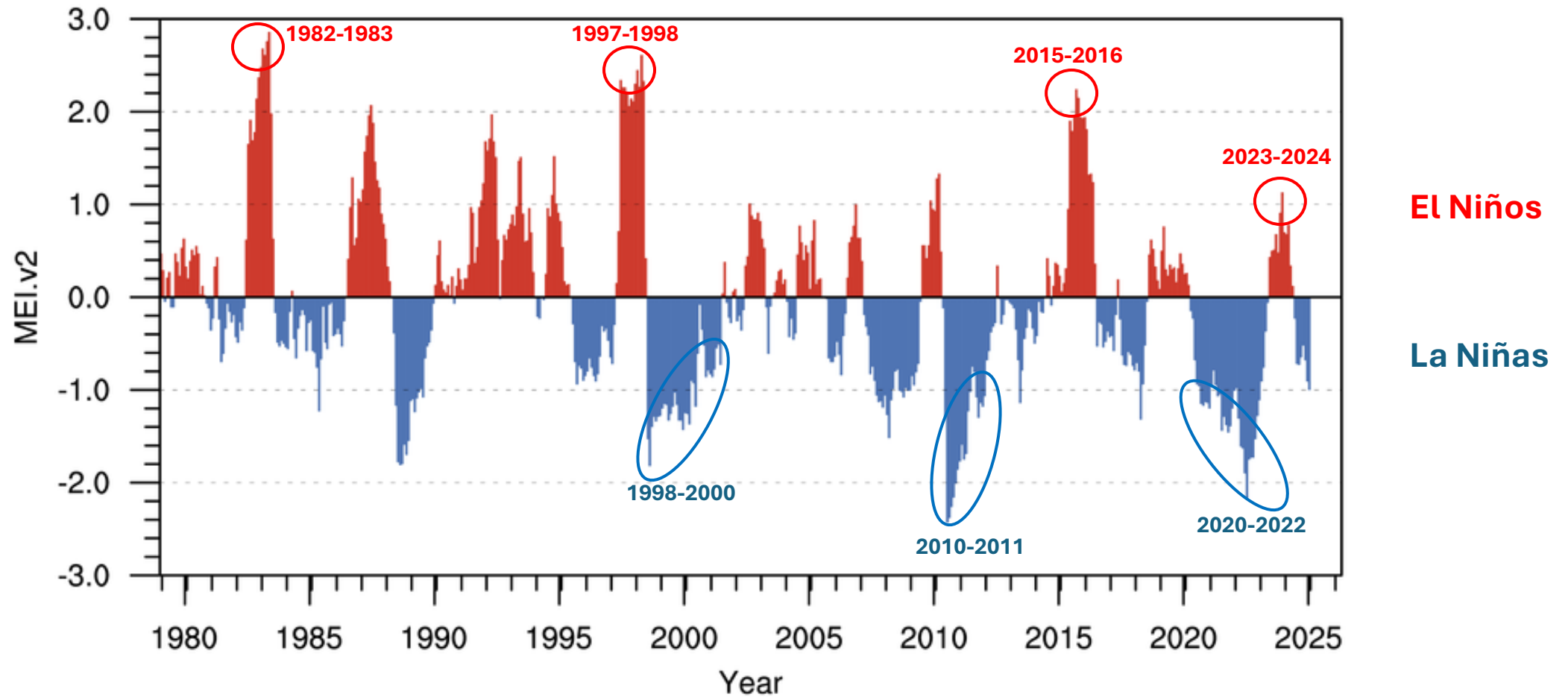
Cool coastal ocean, deep snowpack



Warm coastal ocean, low snowpack

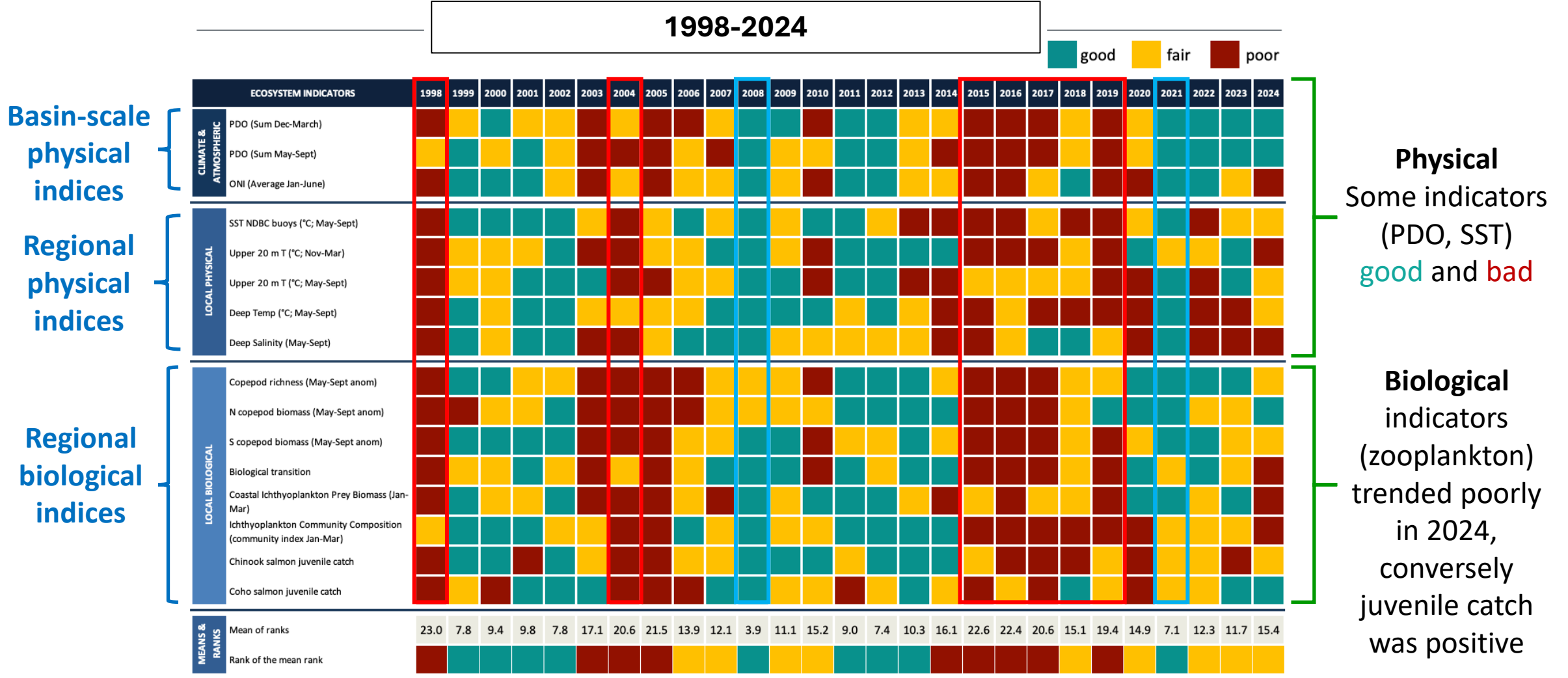
Physical Environmental Conditions

Recent El Niño / La Niña Events



Biological Response

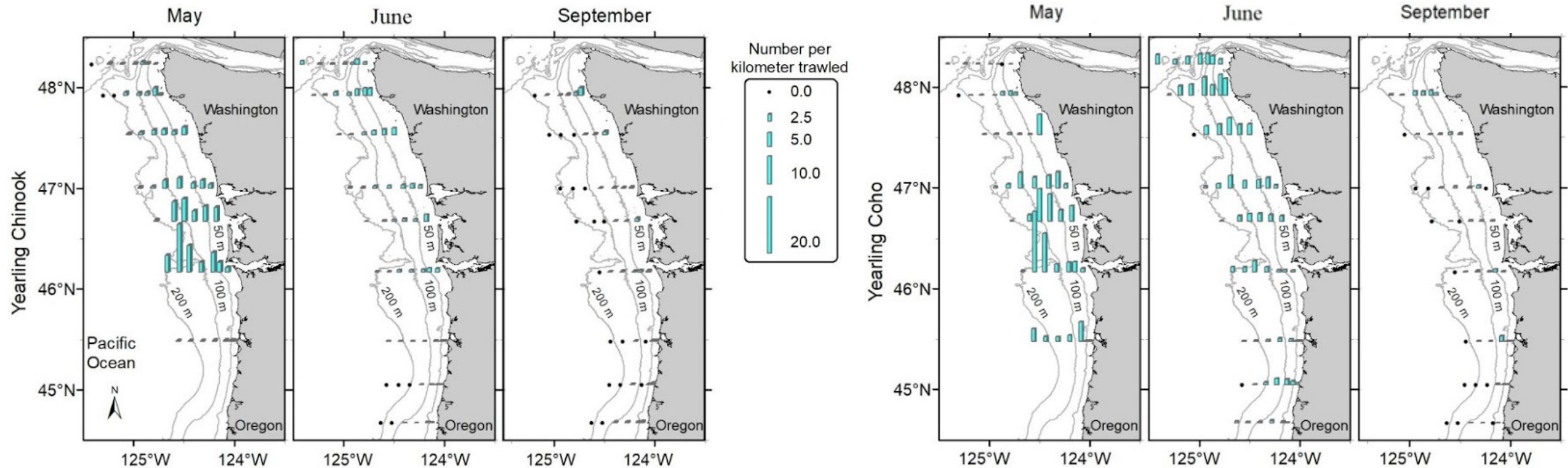
Salmon Indicators: Bad -> Fair -> Good



Biological Response

Juvenile Salmon Catch

- Number of juvenile salmon caught during coastal NOAA surveys can serve as an index of ocean survival for yearling Chinook and coho salmon.
- NOAA observed the highest average juvenile Chinook and coho salmon abundance during May 2024 cruises in the Columbia River vicinity.



Coho salmon distribution was more widespread, whereas yearling Chinook salmon were far less common off Oregon than Washington.

Biological Response

Adult Salmon Response

2024

- Columbia River Sockeye 762K (Record-breaking Year)
- Puget Sound Chum (Strongest returns over recent 40 years)

2025

- Record Pink forecasts ahead

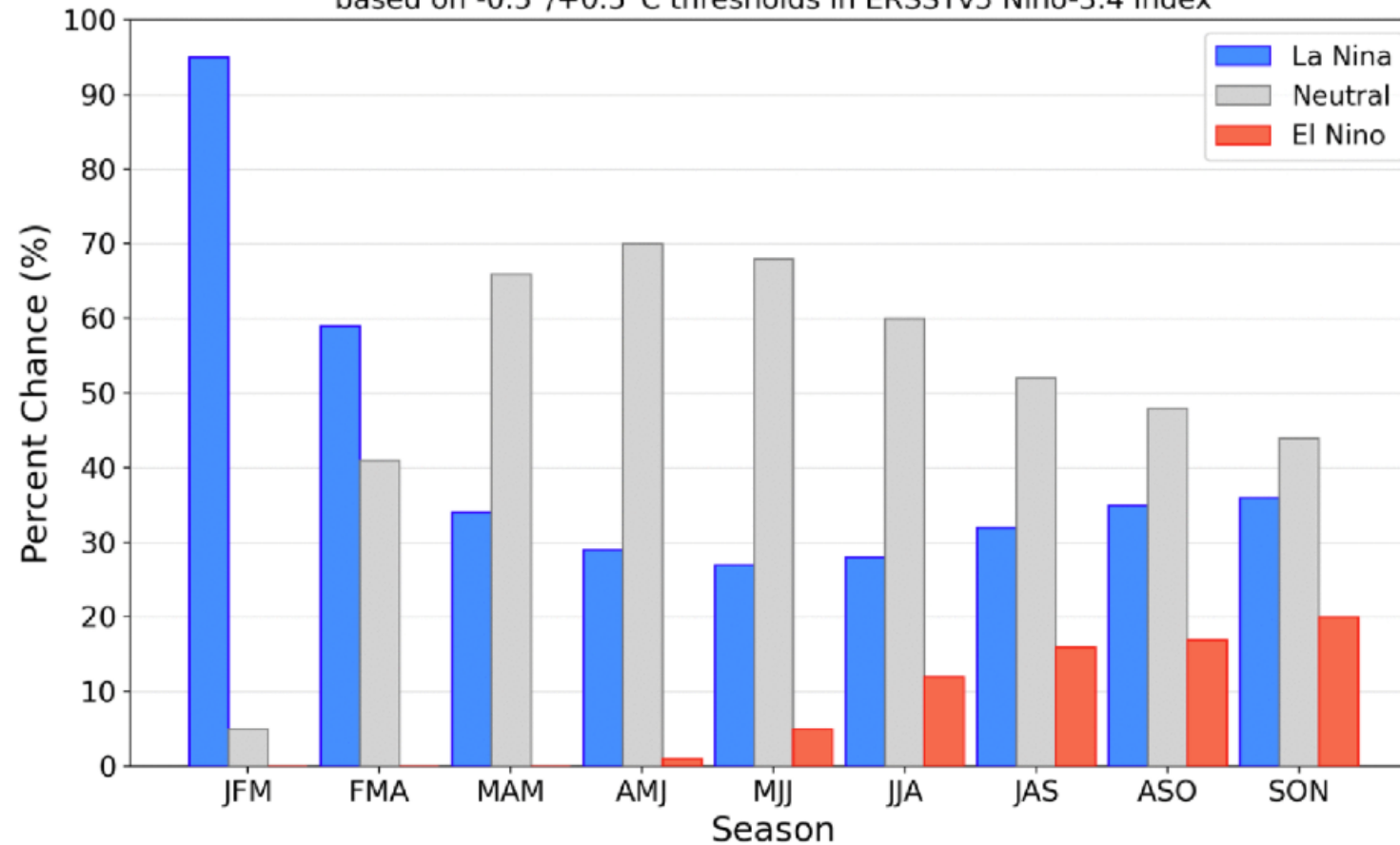


Marine Environmental Forecasts

El Niño/La Niña Forecasts

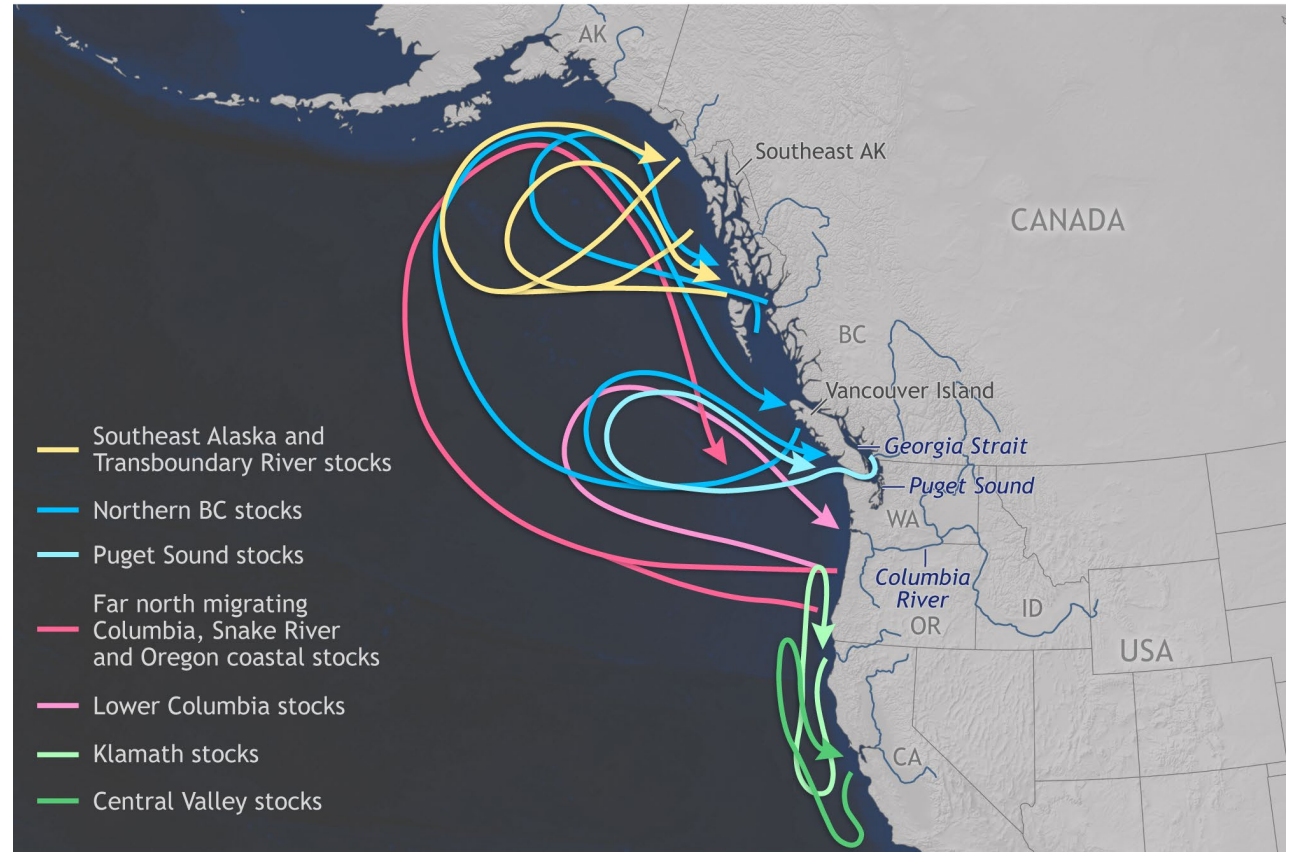
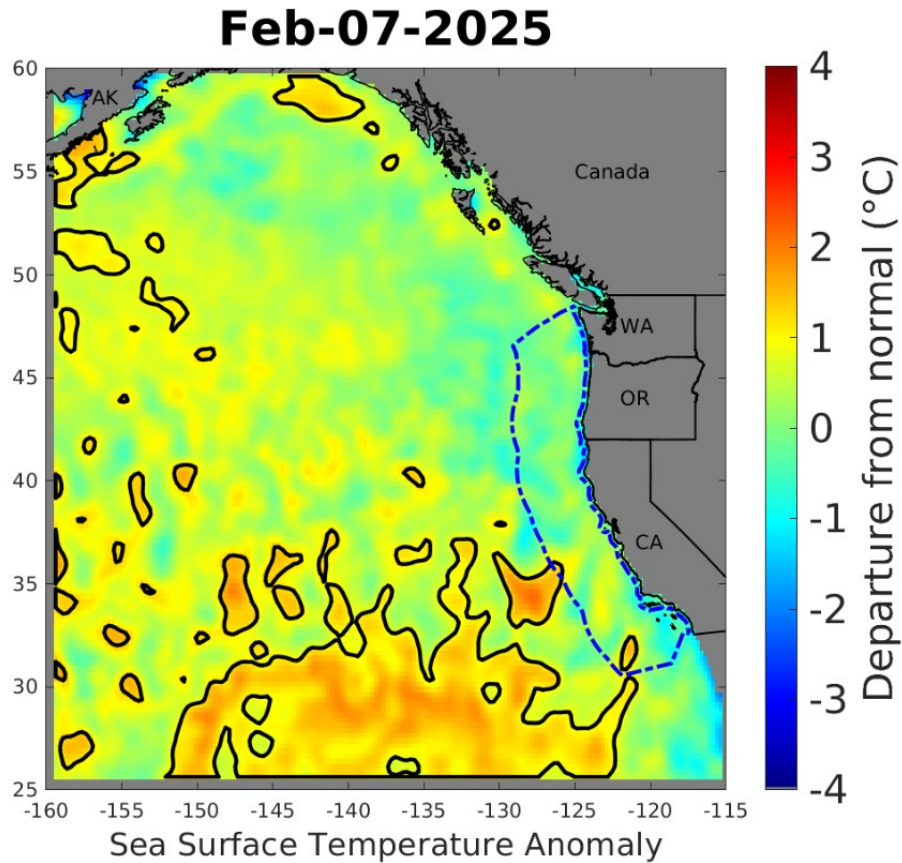
Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued February 2025)

based on $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ thresholds in ERSSTv5 Niño-3.4 index



Marine Environmental Forecasts

Sea Surface Temperatures and Migration Pathways



NOAA Climate.gov
Data: NOAA Fisheries

Environmental Factors Take-Home Messages



Smolts entering the ocean experienced moderate to good ocean conditions over last four years



La Niña is projected to weaken in early Spring, so keep an eye on:

- NE Pacific sea surface temperatures increasing and salmon returning into hot water
- Low Snowpack (low flow, warm summer stream temperatures)

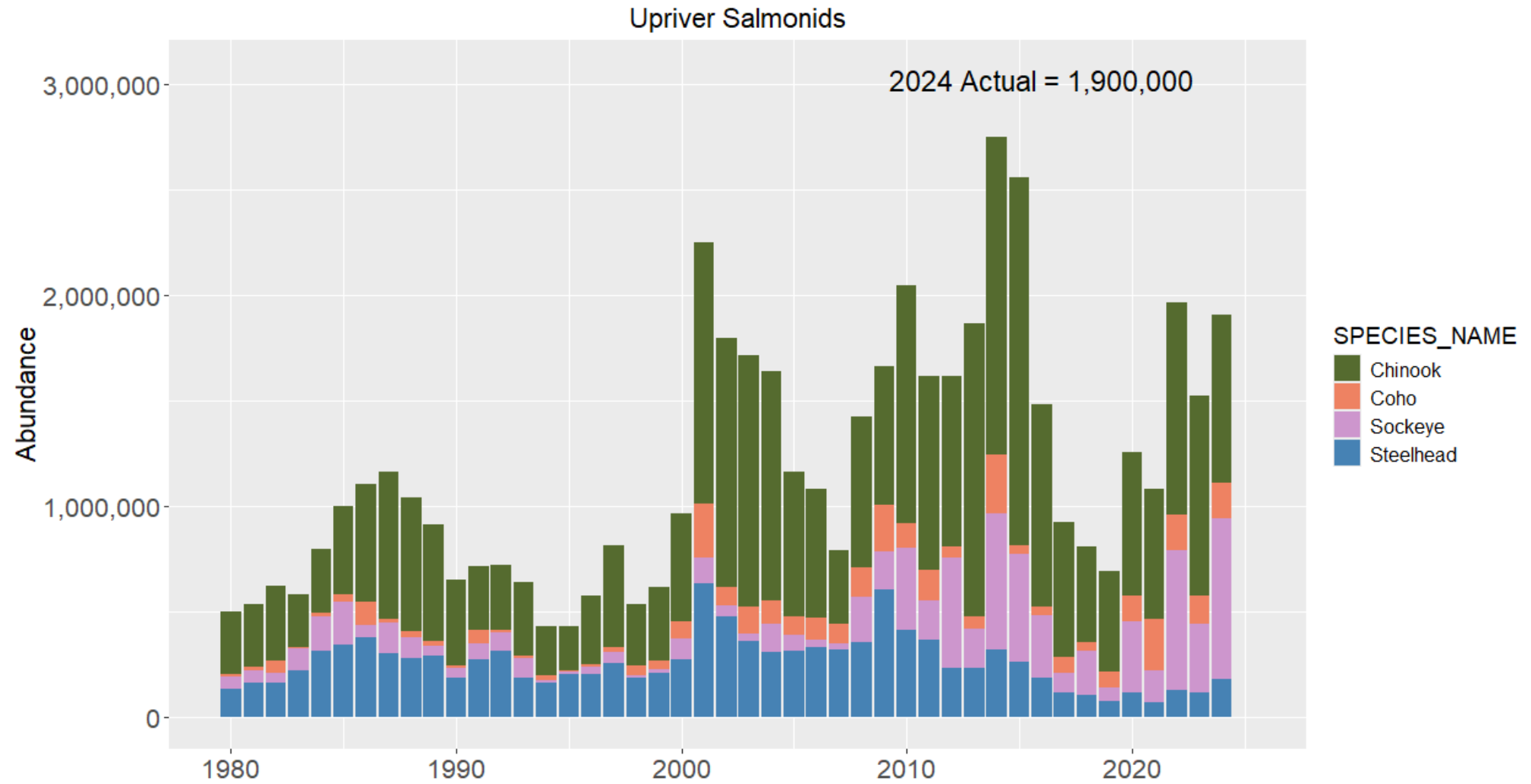


Marine heat waves shifting from coastal environments into deep sea NE Pacific driving higher uncertainty in some forecasts (i.e., some species taking advantage, adapting, changing migratory behavior while others mismatched with optimal conditions)

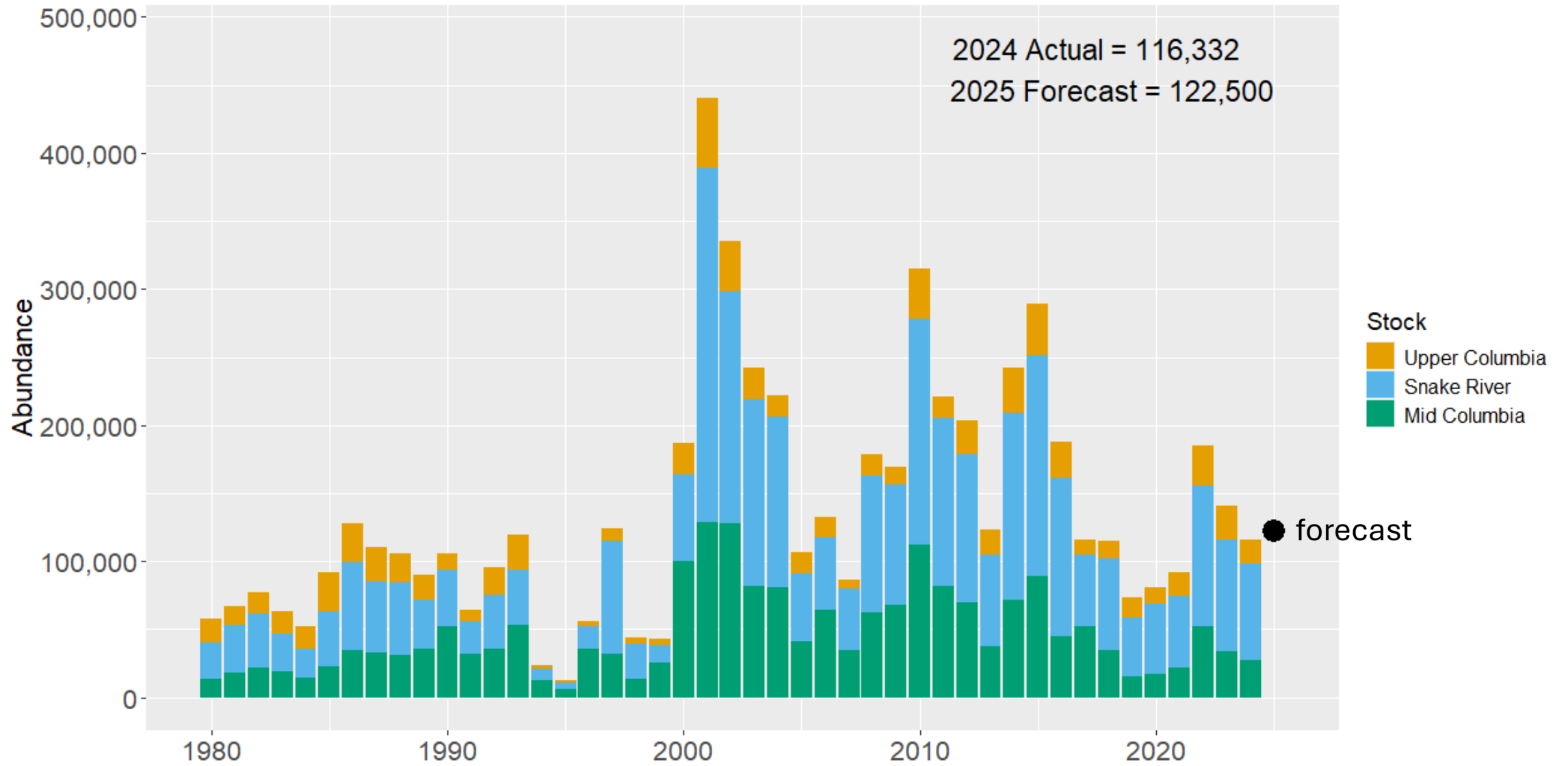


In conclusion, consistent trends in ocean climate over recent years suggest 2025 salmon survival and returns have the potential to mirror 2024

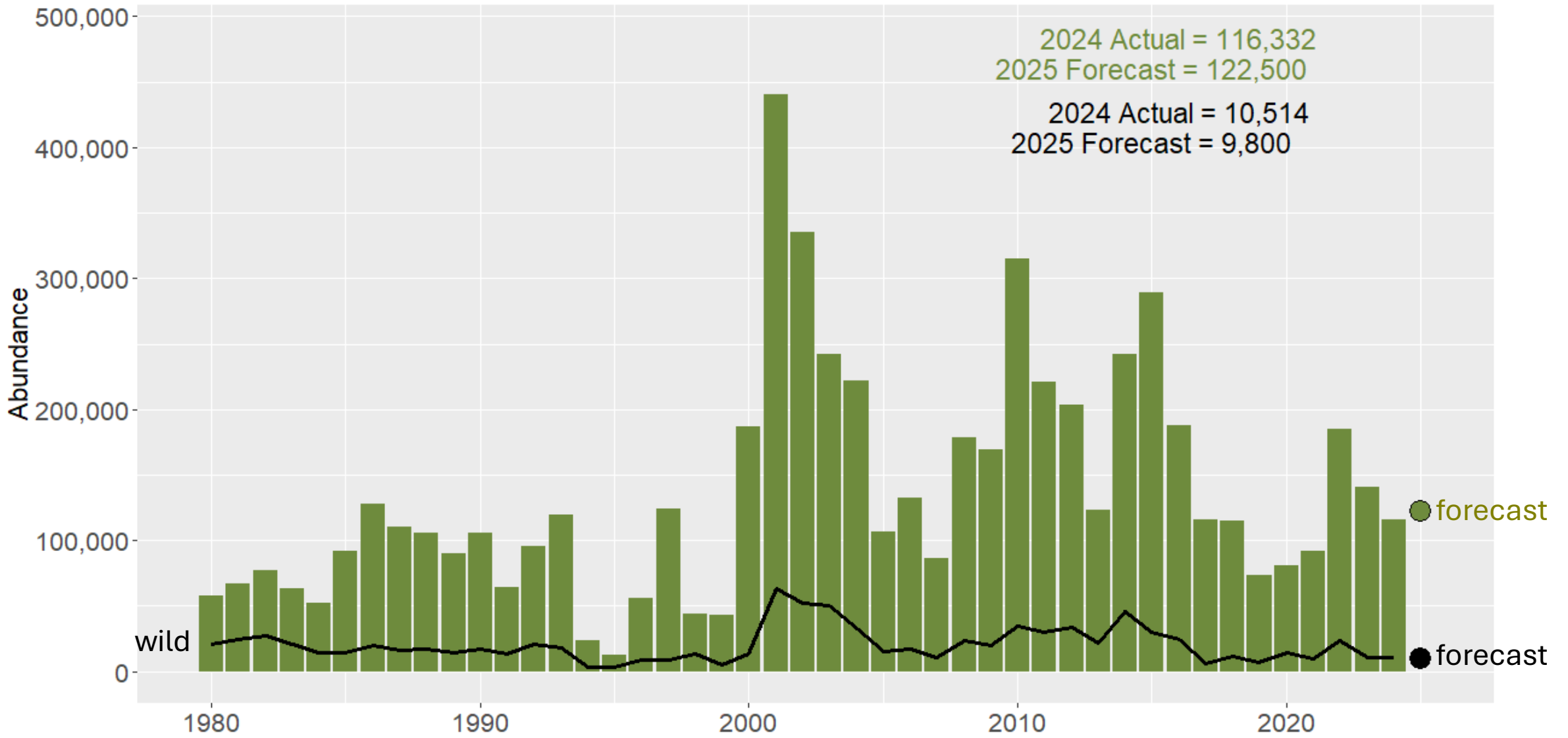
Forecasts & Returns



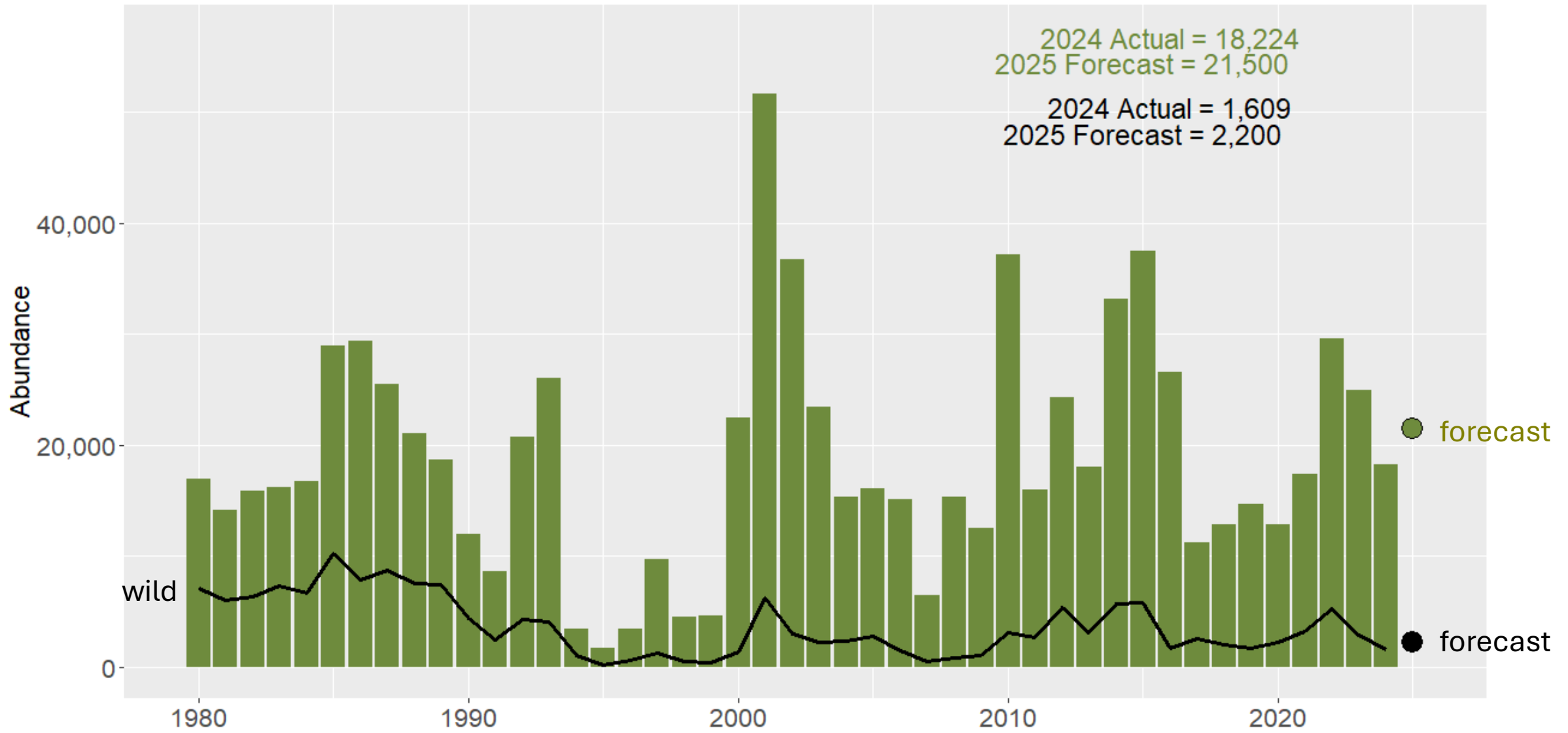
Upriver Spring Chinook



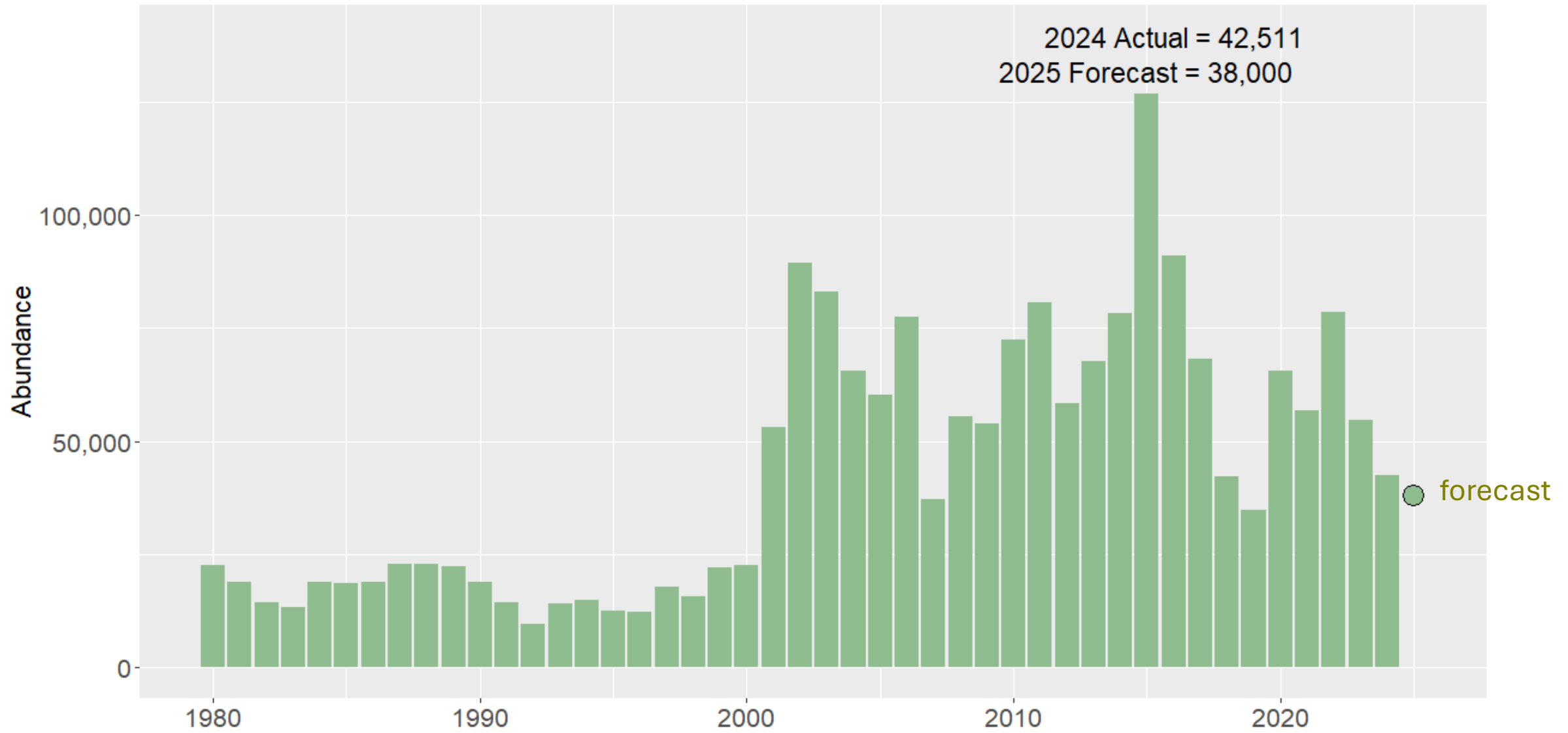
Upriver Spring Chinook and Snake wild



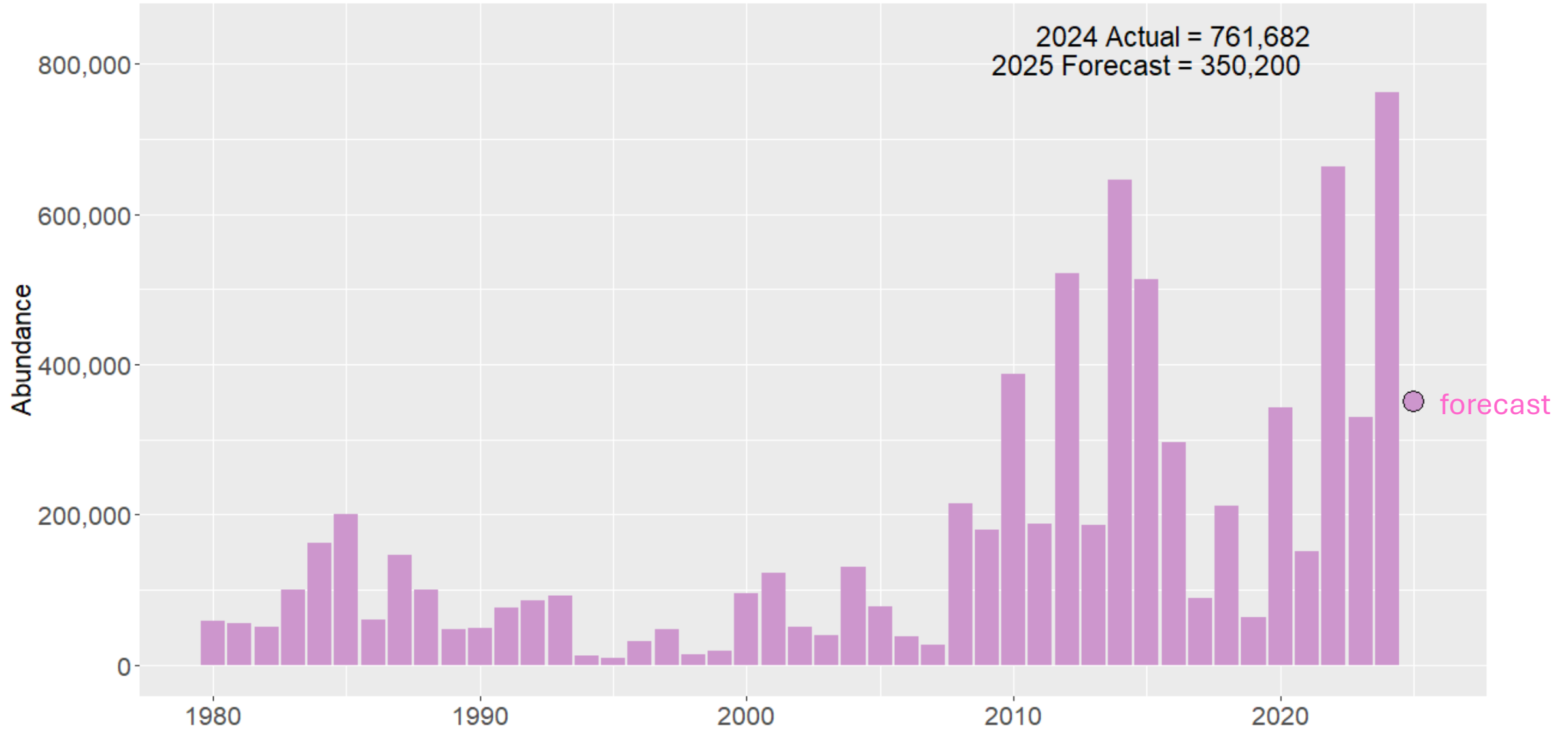
Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and Wild



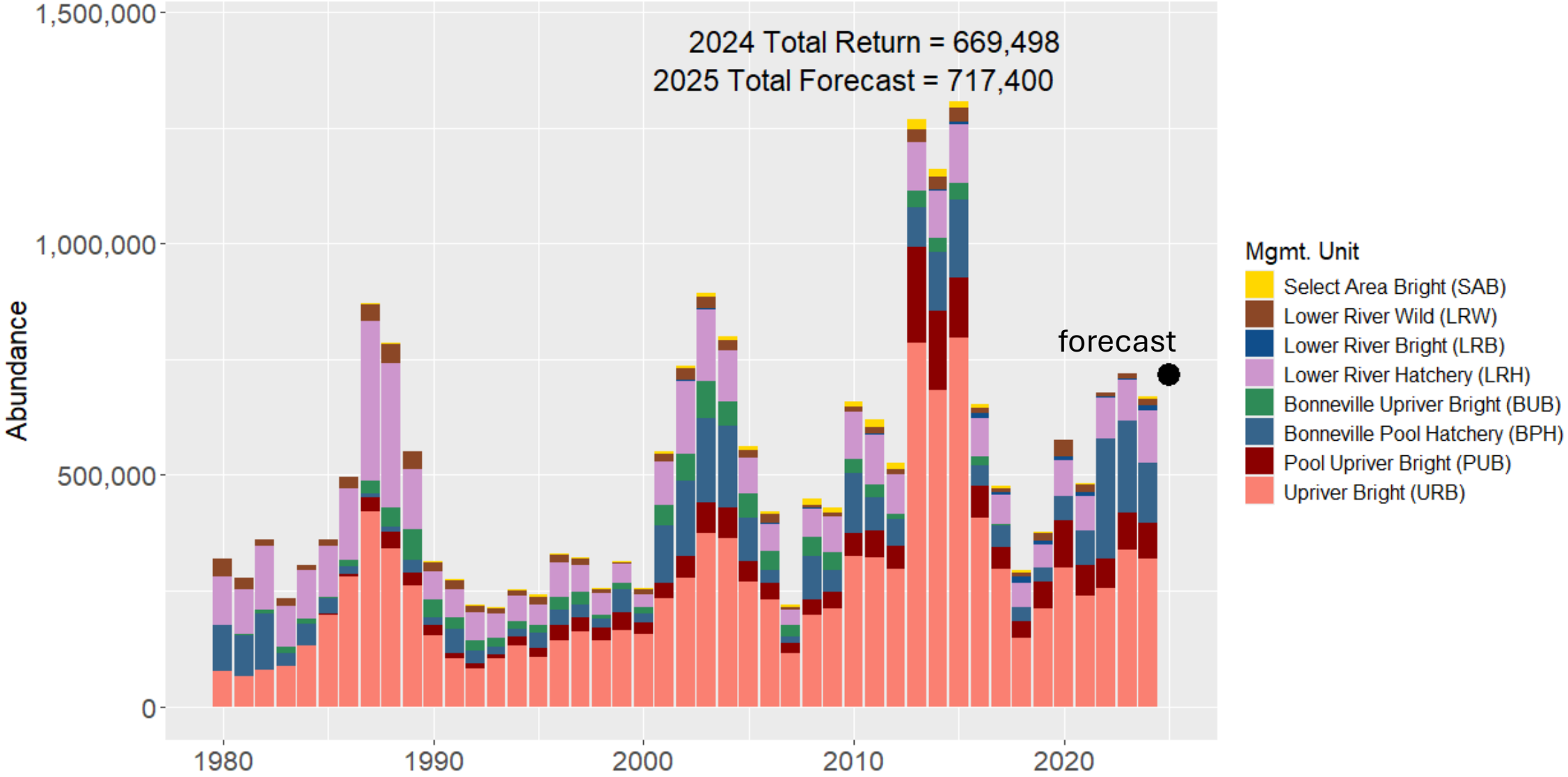
Upper Columbia Summer Chinook



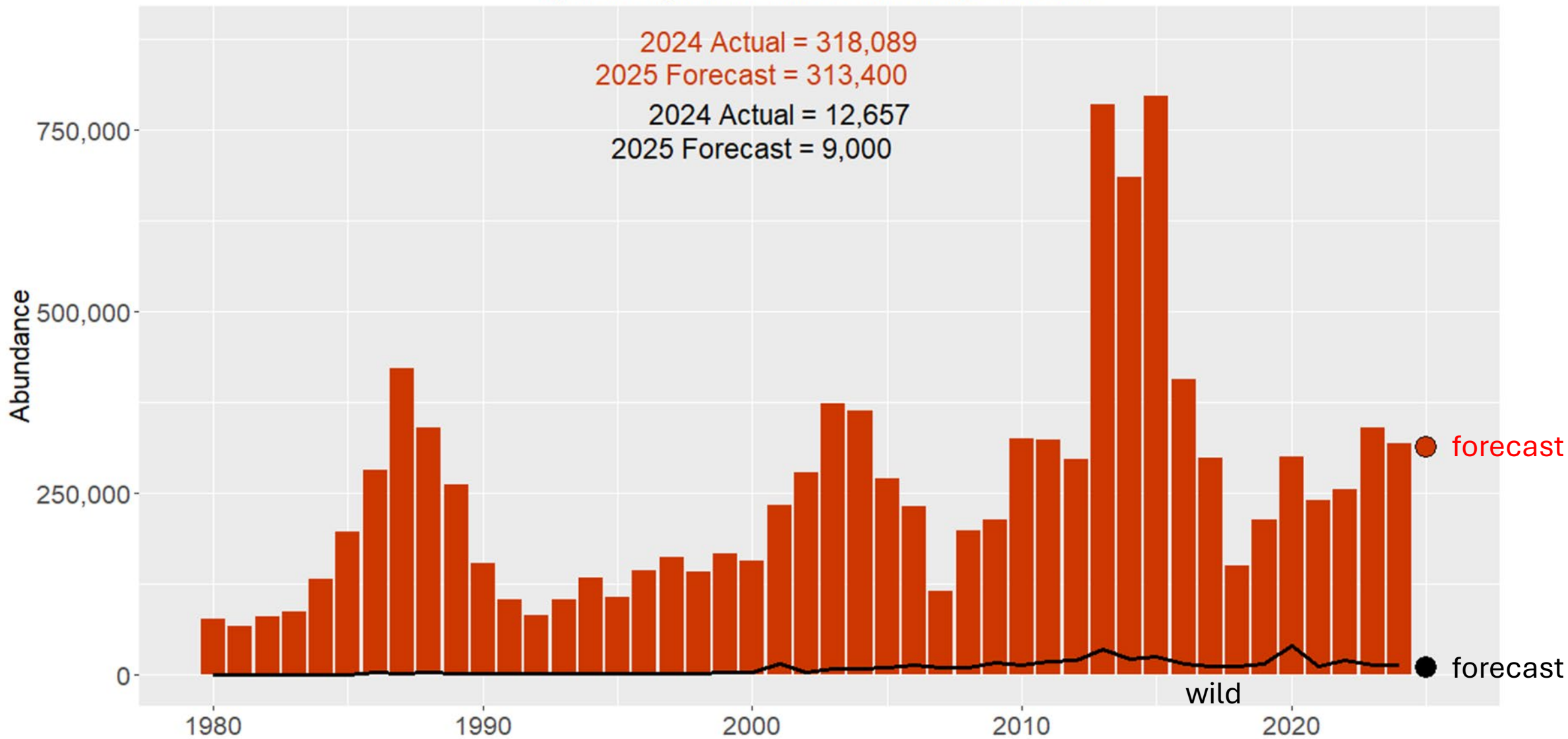
Columbia River Sockeye



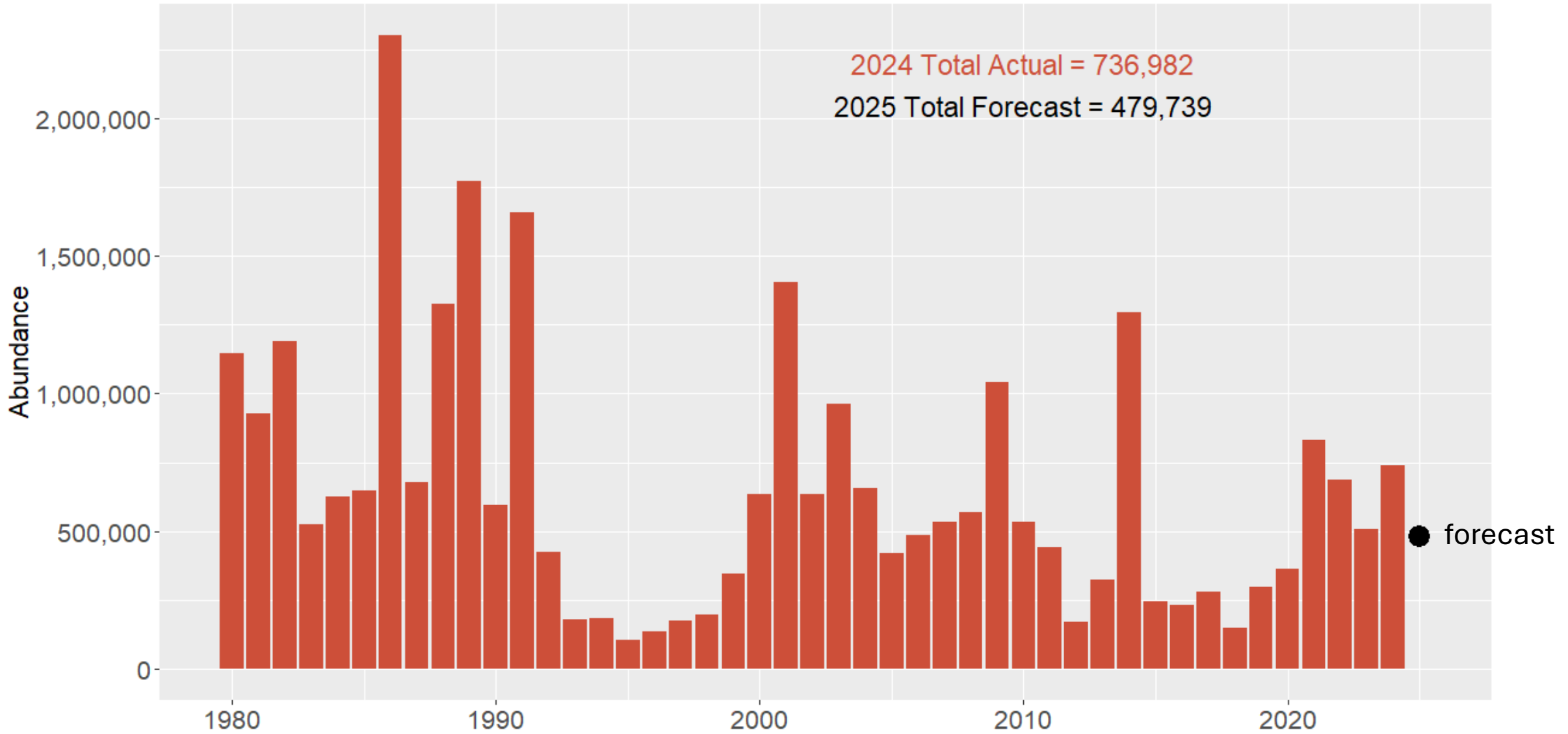
Columbia River Fall Chinook



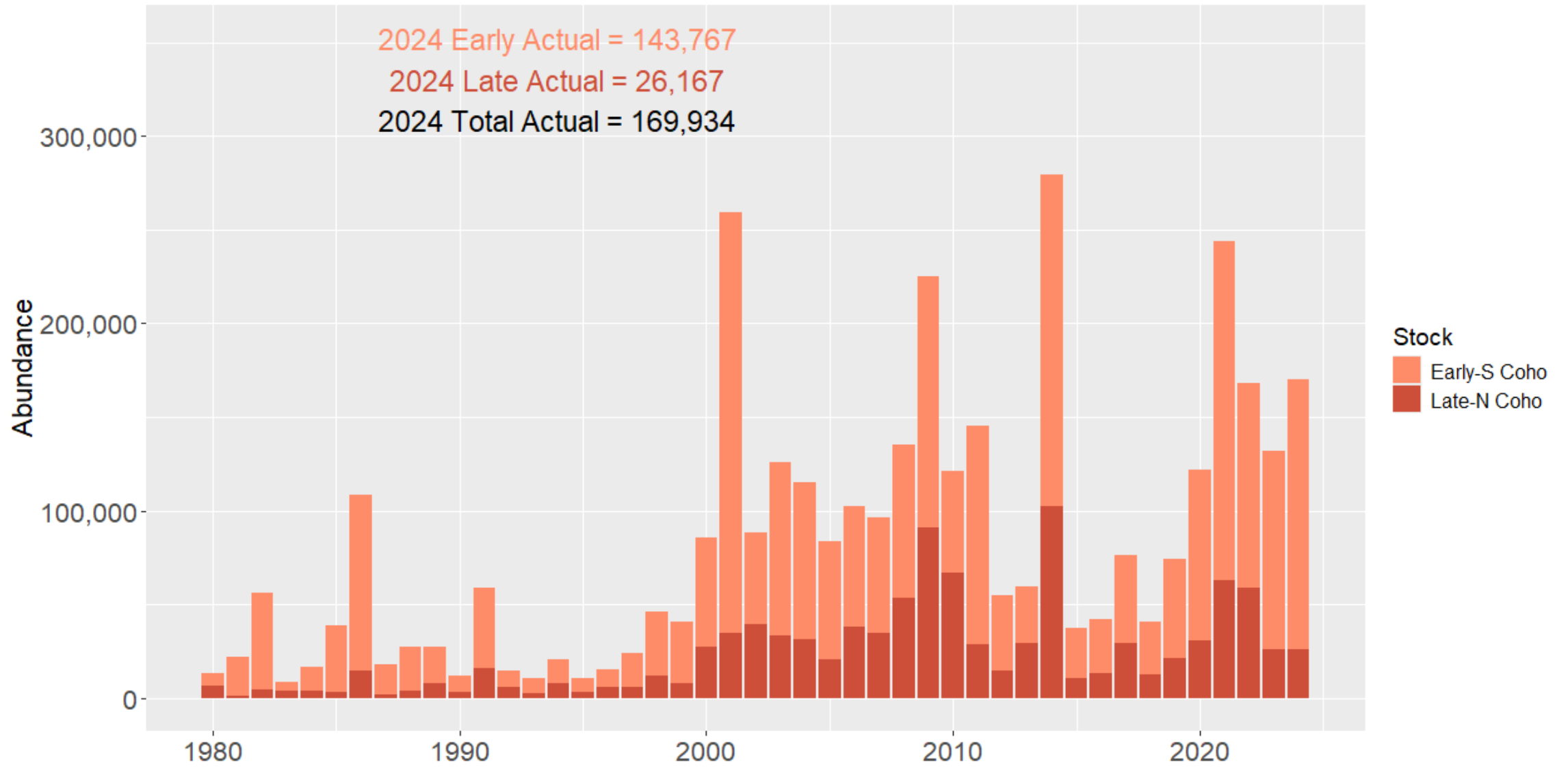
Upriver Bright Fall Chinook and Snake River Wild



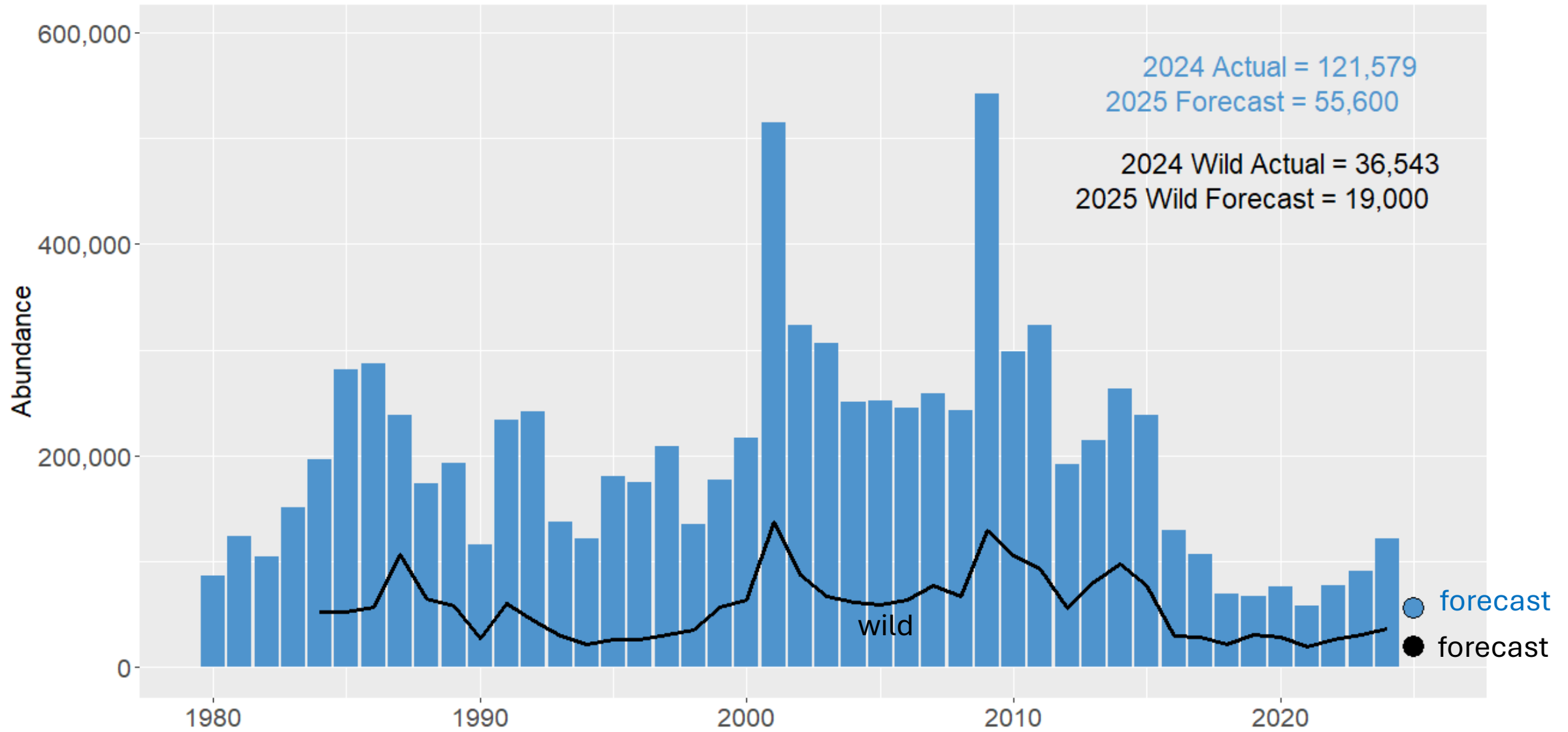
Columbia River Coho - ocean abundance



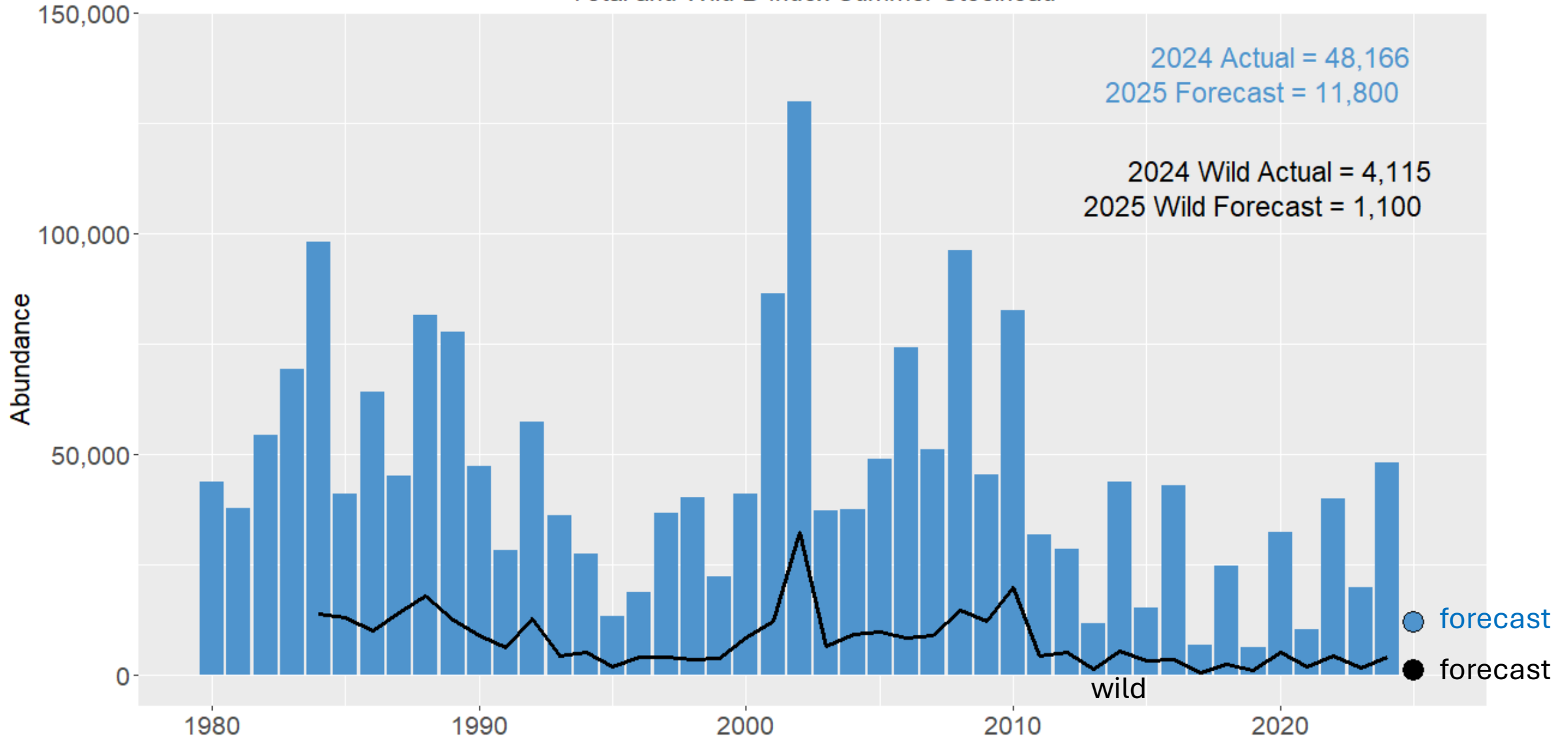
Upriver Coho passage - Bonneville Dam



Total and Wild A-Index Summer Steelhead



Total and Wild B-Index Summer Steelhead



2024 Fishery Summaries

Stock	Area	Season
Upriver Spring Chinook	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yakima 2. Snake 3. Icicle 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closed 2. Open 5 days between May 8-Jun 7 3. May 16-Jun 30
UCR Summer Chinook	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hanford Reach 2. PRD to RID 3. RID to RRD 4. RRD-WED 5. WED to Brewster Br. 6. Brewster Br. to Pelican Point 7. Pelican Point to CJD 8. Wenatchee River 9. Entiat River 10. Chelan River 11. Okanogan/Similkameen Rivers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closed 2. Jul 1-Aug 16 3. Jul 1-Jul 20 4. Jul 1-Aug 16 5. Jul 16-Aug 16 6. Closed 7. Jul 1-Aug 16 8. Closed 9. Jul 9-Aug 16 10. Jul 1-Aug 16 11. Closed
Sockeye	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hanford Reach 2. PRD to RID 3. RID to WED 4. WED to Brewster Br. 5. Brewster Br. to CJD 6. Lake Wenatchee 7. Wenatchee River/Okanogan/Similkameen Rivers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jun 16-Aug 15 2. Jul 1-Aug 31 3. Jul 1-Oct 15 4. Jul 16-Sep 30 5. Jul 1-Oct 15 6. Jul 22-Aug 31 7. Closed
Upriver Summer Steelhead	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hanford Reach 2. Snake 3. Upper Columbia 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closed 2. Sep 1-March 31 3. Oct 16-Jan 20
URB Fall Chinook	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hanford Reach 2. Snake 3. PRD to RID 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aug 16/Sep 15-Oct 15/Dec 31 2. Aug 18-Oct 31 3. Sep 1-Oct 15

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Stock	Forecast	Comments
Upriver Spring Chinook	122,500	88% of 10-year average; Snake (56,200); Yakima (2,600); Icicle (NA at time of presentation)
Upper Columbia Summer Chinook	38,000	58% of 10-yr avg; 29,000 escapement goal to Col. River mouth
Upriver Bright Fall Chinook	313,400	94% of 10-yr avg; Hanford Reach (81,500, ~34% wild); Snake River (50,200, ~18% wild)
Upriver Summer Steelhead	A-index: 55,600 (19,000 wild) B-index: 11,800 (1,100 wild)	A-index 54% of 10-yr avg (wild: 57%); B-index 47% of 10-yr avg (wild: 34%)
Sockeye	350,200	101% of 10-year average; Okanogan (248,000); Lake Wenatchee (94,000)

Upper Columbia summer Chinook Fishery allocation guidance

Step 1: *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement

- Reserves 29,000 to Columbia River mouth (equates to 20,000 past all fisheries) for escapement
- Remaining abundance allocated 50/50 between Treaty tribes and non-treaty fisheries of total mortalities
- Non-treaty ocean harvest counts towards non-treaty allocation; remaining balance is available for in-river fisheries

Step 2: WDFW Commission Policy 3630 (similar to the OR policy/rule on allocations)

- Non-treaty allocation divided between fisheries downstream (<) of Priest Rapids Dam (PRD)
- Additional sharing between recreational and commercial fisheries <PRD
 - Lower the abundances result in a higher recreational share (e.g., 80%)

Step 3: Wanapum Band

- State law that reserves small allocation to Wanapum Band from non-treaty share

Step 4: WDFW-CCT Harvest Share Plan

- Determine the proportion for upstream (>) of PRD and split between CCT and sport fisheries
- Lower abundances result in higher proportion of fish for >PRD and for CCT fisheries

Step 5: In-season management

- *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee provides an update to the river mouth abundance
- An updated abundance is incorporated into Step 1 to determine new allocations
 - Depending the remaining balance, fisheries may need to be adjusted

Upper Columbia summer Chinook

Preliminary preseason 2025 fishery allocation guidance

Step 1: *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement

- 38,000 (river mouth forecast) plus ocean non-treaty catch (preliminarily ~3,375) = 41,375 abundance
- 41,375 minus 29,000 (escapement goal) divided by two = 6,187 available for non-treaty harvest
- 6,187 minus 3,375 ocean non-treaty catch = 2,813 in-river non-treaty harvest

Step 2: WDFW Commission Policy 3630

- 10% of 2,813 = 281 available for <PRD
- 80% of 281 = 248 available for recreational fisheries
- 20% of 281 = 34 available for commercial fisheries

Step 3: Wanapum Band

- 63 fish available

Step 4: WDFW-CCT Harvest Share Plan

- 90% of 2,813 = 2,531 available for >PRD
- 70% of 2,531 = 1,772 available for CCT fisheries
- 696 remain available for >PRD sport fisheries

**Forecasts and numerical allocation/sub-allocations are subject to change. Finalized pre-season estimates will be available at the conclusion of the Pacific Fishery Management Council in April.*

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Mainstem Columbia River: Downstream of Bonneville Dam

- Spring Chinook: Increased forecast for lower river stocks and a similar abundance for upriver stocks. Pre-update fishery open through April 6.
- Summer Chinook: Due to a low forecasted abundance, there is insufficient allocation for directed harvest; non-target handle only to provide for sockeye/steelhead fisheries.
- Sockeye: Anticipate fishing opportunity.
- Fall Chinook:
 - In-season stability measures will be considered to reduce risk of closures. May include elements of mark-selective (Buoy 10), salmonid angling day/block closures, consider effort shift, and high handle rates.
 - Anticipate fishing opportunity as abundance is similar to last year but Upriver Bright/Snake River wild Chinook may limit fishery.
- Coho: Anticipate harvest opportunity. Majority of harvest occurs in Buoy 10.
- Upriver summer steelhead: Closures with very limited hatchery harvest opportunity due to low forecasts similar to recent years.
- Other: Barbless hooks required.

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Mainstem Columbia River: Bonneville Dam to Hwy 395 at Pasco

- Spring Chinook: Similar abundance for upriver stocks however there has been an increased catch and effort trend. Pre-update fishery open April 1-26.
- Summer Chinook: Due to a low forecasted abundance, there is insufficient allocation for directed harvest; non-target handle only to provide for sockeye/steelhead fisheries.
- Sockeye: Anticipate fishing opportunity.
- Fall Chinook: Upriver bright/Snake River wild Chinook catches may limit fishery.
- Coho: Forecast large enough to provide harvest opportunity.
- Upriver summer steelhead: Closures with very limited hatchery harvest opportunity due to low forecasts similar to recent years.
- Other: Barbless hooks required.

Region 5

WA tributaries below Bonneville Dam

- Rule change proposals- presented during April 3 public meeting in Ridgefield, WA

WA tributaries between Bonneville & The Dalles Dam

Steelhead Conservation Strategy Continuations:

- Wind, Drano, White Salmon, and Klickitat cold water refugia reaches
- July – October
 - Steelhead angling/retention closed
 - Night closure for salmon and steelhead

Drano Lake:

- seeking public input on boat/bank boundary at the mouth (for possible rule-making in future years)

Drano Lake (Region 5)

Located along the Columbia River in Skamania County.



Aerial photo of Drano Lake at the mouth of the Little White Salmon River.



Aerial photo of the Drano Lake boat/bank boundary area near Hwy 14 railroad tracks.

Drano Lake (Region 5)

Current boundary:

- Bank fishing only; west of a line from Hwy 14 to north shore.
 - Effective April 16 – June 30.
- South boundary anchor is the easternmost bridge piling.
- North boundary anchor is a posted marker located in northwest corner.
- Boundary established in early 2010s to resolve boat and bank angler conflicts; majority supported rule.



Aerial photo of the Drano Lake bank fishing only boundary line.

Drano Lake (Region 5)

Current issues:

- High levels of effort.
- Larger vessels; boats getting “pushed” across the fishing boundary line.
- More incursion of boundary.
- **Resurfacing user conflict in 2023-2024:**
 - Numerous calls to WDFW Enforcement
 - Dozens of boundary line warnings and citations issued.
 - Three assaults.

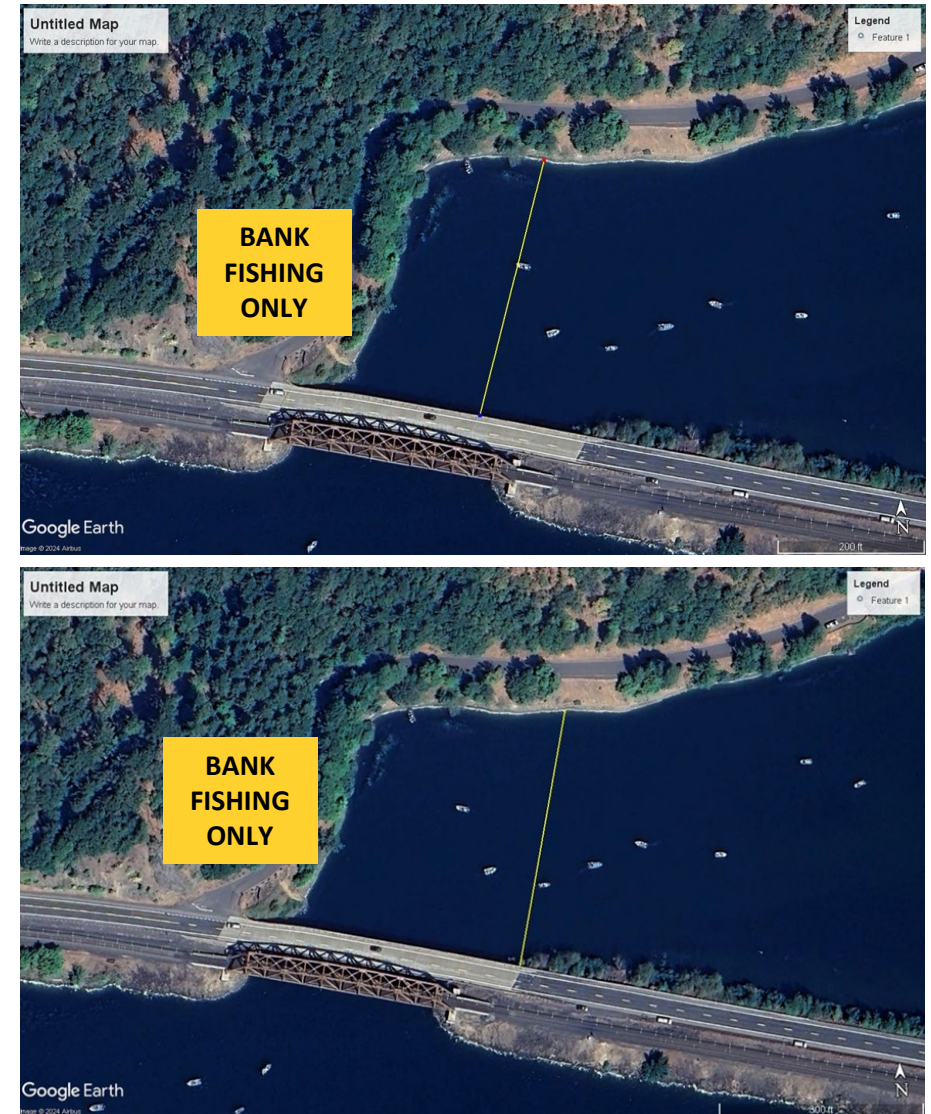


Photo of a guide boat near the boat/bank fishing boundary at Drano Lake.

Drano Lake (Region 5)

Seeking public input:

- To assist with the potential development of future management options at Drano Lake.
- WDFW is **NOT** proposing changes to the current boundary at this time.
- Future boundary modifications may be proposed based on public feedback.
- Examples of potential boundary line modifications are provided to the right.



Examples of potential boundary line adjustments at Drano Lake.

Drano Lake (Region 5)

Other WDFW strategies:

- Social media campaign.
 - Facebook and Instagram.
- Boundary marker buoy.
 - Demonstrated effectiveness.
- **We want to hear from you:**
 - Let us know if you have any input, feedback, or ideas for the boundary line management at Drano Lake.



WDFW photo of the boundary line buoy at Drano Lake.

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 3 (Columbia River from Highway 395 to Priest Rapids Dam & Yakima River)

Spring Chinook:

Yakima River

- Preseason forecast 2,640 adult chinook including 1,510 Cle Elum Hatchery
- Closed unless actual passage at Prosser Dam comes in significantly above forecast
- Fishery would open by emergency regulation

Sockeye:

Hwy 395 to I-182:

- Closed except for bank fishery at Columbia Point
- June 16 – July 15

I-182 to Priest Rapids Dam:

- June 16-August 15

Both Areas

- Daily limit 6 salmon
- Up to 4 adults may be retained
- Release all other salmon
- Use of two poles is permitted with endorsement.
- Barbed hooks allowed.



Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 3 (continued)

Fall Chinook & Coho:

Yakima River:

- Pre-season forecast for 4,016 adult chinook
- Fishery planned for Sept 15-Oct 31
- Daily limit 6 salmon, 2 adult

Hanford Reach: Forecast 81,500 adults (27,500 wild + 54,000 hatchery)

- Daily limit 6 salmon. Two adult Salmon (only 1 wild Chinook) between Hwy 395 and Old Hanford Townsite powerlines. Only 1 adult Salmon may be retained above powerlines.
- Hwy 395 Br. To Snyder/Selph Landing line (CRC 534/535)
 - September 15 to Oct 31 (December 31 above I-182 Bridge)
- Snyder/Selph Landing line to Old Hanford Townsite powerline crossing (CRC 535)
 - August 16 to December 31 (extended for RSH coho fishery)
- Old Hanford townsite powerline crossing to Priest Rapids Dam, (CRC 536)
 - August 16 to October 15 (1 adult)
- Use of two poles is permitted with endorsement. Barbed hooks allowed.

Ringold Steelhead:

- Open from I-182 (Richland) upstream to the Hanford Townsite powerline crossing
- Open October 1 - March 31, bank only April 1-15
- Daily limit 1 hatchery steelhead, Ringold Spring Hatchery only. RSH steelhead are adipose clipped and right ventral fin clipped
- Sport harvest and adult return will be monitored in-season.

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Spring Chinook: Icicle River
 - Forecasted return to Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery not available at time of presentation
 - Certainty in the forecast not known until PIT-tagged spring Chinook are detected passing through mainstem dams (Apr/May)
 - If forecasted return is sufficient a season will open \geq mid/late-May
 - Open via Fishing Rule Change (aka emergency rule)

- Sockeye: Mainstem Columbia River and Tributaries
 - Season and rules will be published in 2025-2026 Sportfish Rules Pamphlet
 - Daily limit 4 sockeye
 - PRD-RID: Jul 1-Aug 31
 - RID-WED: Jul 1-Oct 15
 - WED-Brewster Bridge: Jul 16-Sep 30
 - Brewster Bridge-CJD: Jul 1-Oct 15
 - Wenatchee River: **Closed**
 - Okanogan/Similkameen Rivers: **Closed**

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Sockeye: Lake Wenatchee
 - Forecast of 94,000
 - If forecast holds the season will likely be the same/similar as in 2024 (late-July to August; 4)
 - Open via Fishing Rule Change (aka emergency rule)
 - ESA permit constraints on how early this fishery can be opened

- Fall Chinook: Mainstem Columbia River
 - Season and rules will be published in 2025-2026 Sportfish Rules Pamphlet
 - Daily limit 6 salmon. No more than 2 adult chinook. Release all salmon other than chinook.
 - PRD-RID: Sep 1-Oct 15

- Coho: Mainstem Columbia River and Icicle River
 - Season TBD
 - Based off passage over PRD
 - Open via Fishing Rule Change (aka emergency rule)

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Steelhead: Mainstem Columbia River and Tributaries
 - 1st season in a decade
 - October 16th through January 20th, 2024
 - Mainstem Columbia River from Beebe Bridge to Brewster Bridge and Methow River (mouth to Burma Bridge)
 - A little less than 1,000 hatchery steelhead harvested
 - 4,000 angler trips and 17,117 fishing hours
 - 2025 forecast low
 - Season TBD
 - Monitor run over PRD
 - Minimum run size for steelhead (wild + hatchery) required to open conservation fishery
 - Open via Fishing Rule Change (aka emergency rule)

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

- Summer Chinook: Mainstem Columbia River and Tributaries
 - Low forecasted return of 38,000
 - Low returns expected again to Okanogan Basin in 2025
 - Recreational fisheries <PRD for summer Chinook closed pre-season
 - Harvest allocation to cover CnR mortality while targeting sockeye/steelhead
 - Preliminary recreational harvest allocation >PRD = **696**
- What Can Change the Allocation:
 - In-season upgrades/downgrades to run size forecast
 - Occurs weekly beginning late-June/early-July
 - Based of passage over Bonneville Dam
 - Ocean harvest quota for Chinook
 - Commercial/recreational ocean fisheries
 - Not yet agreed to
 - Could increase/decrease in-river harvest allocation
 - Any in-season savings from <PRD salmon fisheries

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 2 (Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph Dams)

■ Approach for 2025:

- Upper Columbia River (i.e., >PRD) including tributaries closed preseason
- Wait for first (late-June to early-July), and subsequent, in-season run size updates (less/more fish?)
- Determine if there are savings from <PRD recreational salmon fisheries
- If appropriate, seasons opened via Fishing Rule Change (aka emergency rule)
- Seasons restricted to “terminal areas” (e.g., mouth of Chelan Falls/Entiat, Entiat River, etc.) and time (July 16 or later opener w/early closure, singular or two-day openings, etc.) and reduced limit (1 adult hatchery Chinook per day)
- Harvest + 15% CnR mortality rate = total harvest allocation (*U.S. versus Oregon*)
 - CnR mortality rate includes Chinook handling occurring in all areas open for salmon (i.e., sockeye)

■ Concerns:

- Small harvest allocations difficult to proactively manage
 - Data entry, harvest estimation, and issuing Fishing Rule Changes (aka emergency rules)
 - July 2024: Harvest + 15% CnR = 711 adult hatchery Chinook/week
- “Gold rush” phenomena

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 1 (Snake River Basin)

Spring Chinook

- ~ 400 fish available for harvest, triggers a reduction in fishery area openings
 - Plan to open Little Goose for two days/week. Allocation for 2025 is 407 fish.
 - Plan to open the first week in May under emergency rule, dependent on run timing.
 - Daily limit 6 salmon, only one hatchery adult may be retained.
 - Do not plan to open on weekends.

Year	Pre-update allocation	Areas Open
2016	1005	Ice, Goose, Clarkston
2017	863	Ice, Goose, Clarkston
2018	920	Ice, Goose, Clarkston
2019	357	Goose
2020	400	Goose, Clarkston
2021	243	Goose
2022	542	Ice, Goose
2023	669	Ice, Goose
2024	493	Ice, Goose
2025	407	Goose

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Region 1 (Snake River Basin)

- Fall Chinook:
 - Clarkston area upstream
 - August 18th-October 31 under emergency rule.
 - Daily limit of three adult Chinook no limit on jacks.
 - Lyons Ferry
 - Similar to the fishery held in 2023 and 2024.
 - Fishery open early September, Thursday through Sunday, under emergency rule
 - Daily limit of two adult Chinook, one of which may be unmarked. No limit on jacks.
 - If wild impacts are reached fishery may change to mark selective.
- Coho: Possibility for opportunity, forecast is lower than the last couple of years.
- Steelhead: As with recent years low return estimated for 2024/2025 season.
 - WDFW will evaluate Steelhead returns at Bonneville Dam and Lower Granite Dam and will adjust seasons through emergency rules.
 - Seasons could include reduced limits, size restrictions or area closures.

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Summer Steelhead:

- 2017, 2019-2024 fishery limitations were based on low A-index and B-index forecasts, including the wild B-index component. Fisheries were structured with block closure to be protective of fish as they progressed upstream.
 - Run size will be updated in-season; A-index is updated weekly starting in late August and B-index is updated weekly starting mid September.
- Continued low A-index and B-index forecasts relative to pre-2017 returns of runs larger than 200,000 fish.
 - 2025 forecast is 59% of recent 5-year average return as compared to 29% of the 20-year average return.
 - There continues to be additional forecast uncertainty with regards to one-aged ocean returning fish as opposed to two-aged ocean returning fish. A-index run is primarily comprised of these one-aged ocean fish. Run size will be updated inseason (mid-August for A-index and mid-September for B-index).

Forecasts & Proposed Seasons

Proposed Season Structure for 2025:

- Rolling block closures (e.g., 2017, 2019-2024) from mouth of the Columbia beginning in August continuing upstream. Consideration for the mainstem to remain closed for the most to the run (~July-March in some areas). Night closure.
- Tributary mouths will be closed similarly to the mainstem rolling block closure early summer to fishing for steelhead (no catch and release). Night closure.
- Expect open fishing but possibly abbreviated seasons on the Snake River and tributaries.
- Do not expect to fish the upper Columbia River and tributaries above Priest Rapids Dam.
- Abbreviated hatchery harvest limits in areas that are open (e.g., 1 fish). If actual return is lower than anticipated there may be only catch and release opportunity offered.

Columbia River mainstem and tributary summer steelhead regulation summary for 2025-26 fisheries (PRELIMINARY).

Water Body	June 16-June 30	July	August	September	October	November	December	Jan-March	Comments
Columbia River mainstem									
Below I-5 Bridge	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention			Permanent Regs for winter steelhead (Daily limit 2)			Some periods of salmon/steelhead angling closures when salmon retention is closed.
15-Bridge to Bonneville Dam		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention						
Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention						
The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention			TBD in-season		
John Day Dam to McNary Dam		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention			TBD in-season		
McNary Dam to Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention			TBD in-season		
Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco to Priest Rapids Dam	Permanent Regs (Closed to angling for steelhead)				Daily limit 1. Ringold Springs Hatchery only (ADRV).			Dependent upon actual UCR and RSH returns. Fishery through 3/31 (Bank 4/1-15). Permanent night closure.	
Columbia River tributaries									
Wind/White Salmon (WA) tributary lower reaches	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)	Closed to angling for steelhead				Perm. Regs (Daily limit: 3 Wind R; 2 White Salmon R)		Perm. Regs	Lower reaches restricted. Closure improved enforceability.
Drano Lake (WA)						Daily limit 1			Closure improved enforceability.
Klickitat (WA) tributary lower reaches						Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)			Closure improved enforceability.
Deschutes River (OR) mouth	Daily limit 1	Thermal Angling Sanctuary Regs closed to angling (7/15-9/15)		Perm. Regs (defaults to adjacent mainstem Col R.)				Combination of old perm. regulations (Herman/Eagle Cr. Closures, new permanent regulations, TAS), and intended MS regs by pool which affect these tribs. Note: <u>Herman Cr. Youth and Disabled Angler Angling Area</u> not included; see permanent regulations for this area.	
Eagle Cr. (OR) mouth	Perm. Regs (defaults to adjacent mainstem Col R.)								
Herman Cr. (OR) Lagoon									
Snake River									
Mouth upstream to Couse Creek boat ramp	Perm. Regs (Closed to steelhead retention)			TBD e-rule published by Sept 1				Managed By E-reg. Proposed limits may change to be concurrent with Idaho.	
Couse Creek boat ramp upstream to WA/OR/ID stateline	Perm. Regs (Closed to steelhead retention)			TBD e-rule published by Sept 1				Limits may change to be concurrent with Idaho.	

Comments can be submitted here:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon>



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