



TNG FISHERIES

State of T̕ilhqot̕in salmon stocks in 2024

The pre-season forecast for all Fraser Ts'eman (sockeye) and all Upper Fraser Ja̕ (Chinook) populations anticipates **record low returns**. This includes all stocks that return to spawn in T̕ilhqot̕in Territory and that migrate through the Fraser mainstem.

In 2024, our returning Ja̕ and Ts'eman are the babies from 2019 and 2020 parents. Those years had consecutive record-low salmon returns to the Fraser River, which were further impacted by the Big Bar landslide. Our critically endangered earliest timed stocks (Upper Chilcotin Ja̕ and Taseko Ts'eman) were hit hardest by Big Bar. TNG is leading emergency conservation enhancement (hatchery) efforts to rebuild and recover these stocks.

In addition to very low predicted returns, extreme environmental conditions including high river temperatures are anticipated to cause stress and mortality to returning stocks in 2024. See the "health report card" below for T̕ilhqot̕in specific stock details.

What is the Pre-Season Salmon Forecast?

The pre-season forecast is a prediction of salmon returns in the upcoming season based on information including:

- overall health of the stock (long-term and more recent trends)
- brood (parent) year – how many fish came back to spawn that were the parents for this year's generation
- how many fish are we expecting back from the ocean this year
- environmental conditions in the river that impact migration (temperature and flow)

Salmon Health Report Card for T̕ilhqot̕in Stocks:



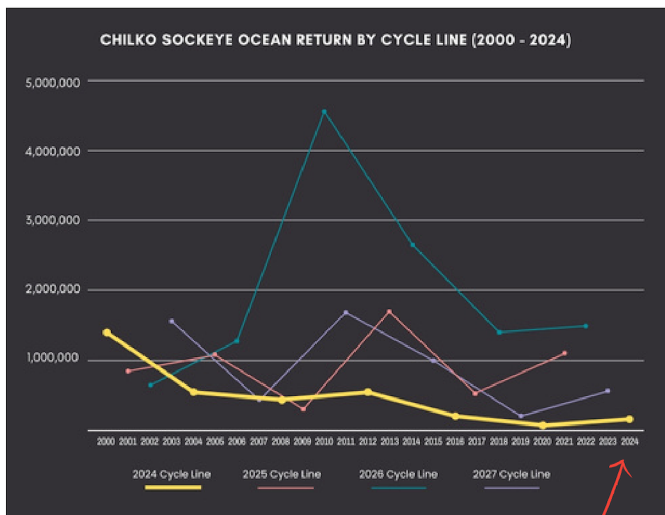
High risk of extinction for Upper Chezqox Ja̕ (Upper Chilcotin Chinook) and Dasiqox Ts'eman (Taseko sockeye). These are early timed stocks that return to the Little Chilcotin and Taseko systems to spawn, and migrate through the Chilcotin mainstem from early July to mid August.



High conservation concern for later-timed T̕ilhqot̕in Ja̕ stocks that return to the Territory from early August to mid September.



Expecting the lowest year for T̕ilhqox Ts'eman (Chilko sockeye) – this is the "echo" of the worst disaster we've had (2020)



The thicker yellow line shows the relatively weaker 2024 cycle line

Why we expect the next 3 years to be better for Chilko Ts'eman

- We expect 2025, 2026, and 2027 to be significantly better years for Ts'eman that will support regular T̕ilhqot̕in Ts'eman fisheries (based on currently available information).
- Each returning Ts'eman population (cycle line) primarily comes back every 4 years, with some contribution from 5 years ago (e.g. 2024 returns are primarily from 2020 parents, with some from 2019 parents).
- 2024 is part of the lowest 4 year cycle line for Ts'eman (i.e., 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, and 2024 are relatively weaker years).
- 2020 was a critically low ocean return year, and 2024 is forecasted to be the worst return on record.