



2025 – SC Post Season Review Fraser and Interior Area IFR Coho & Fraser Chum

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
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Outline

- Fraser Coho
 - Background/Stock Overview
 - Pre-season Forecast
 - Preliminary Fisheries Summaries
- Fraser Chum
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 - Pre-season Forecast
 - Preliminary Fisheries Summaries

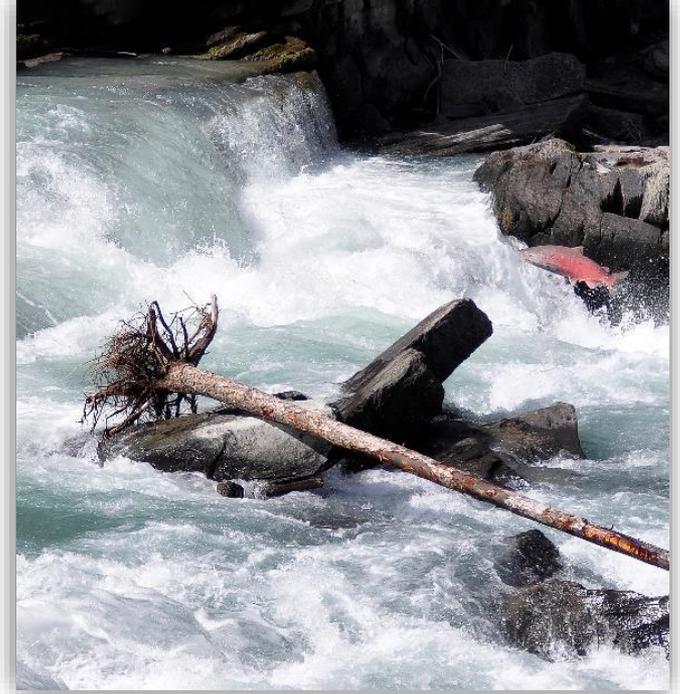


Photo by: Shane Kalyn

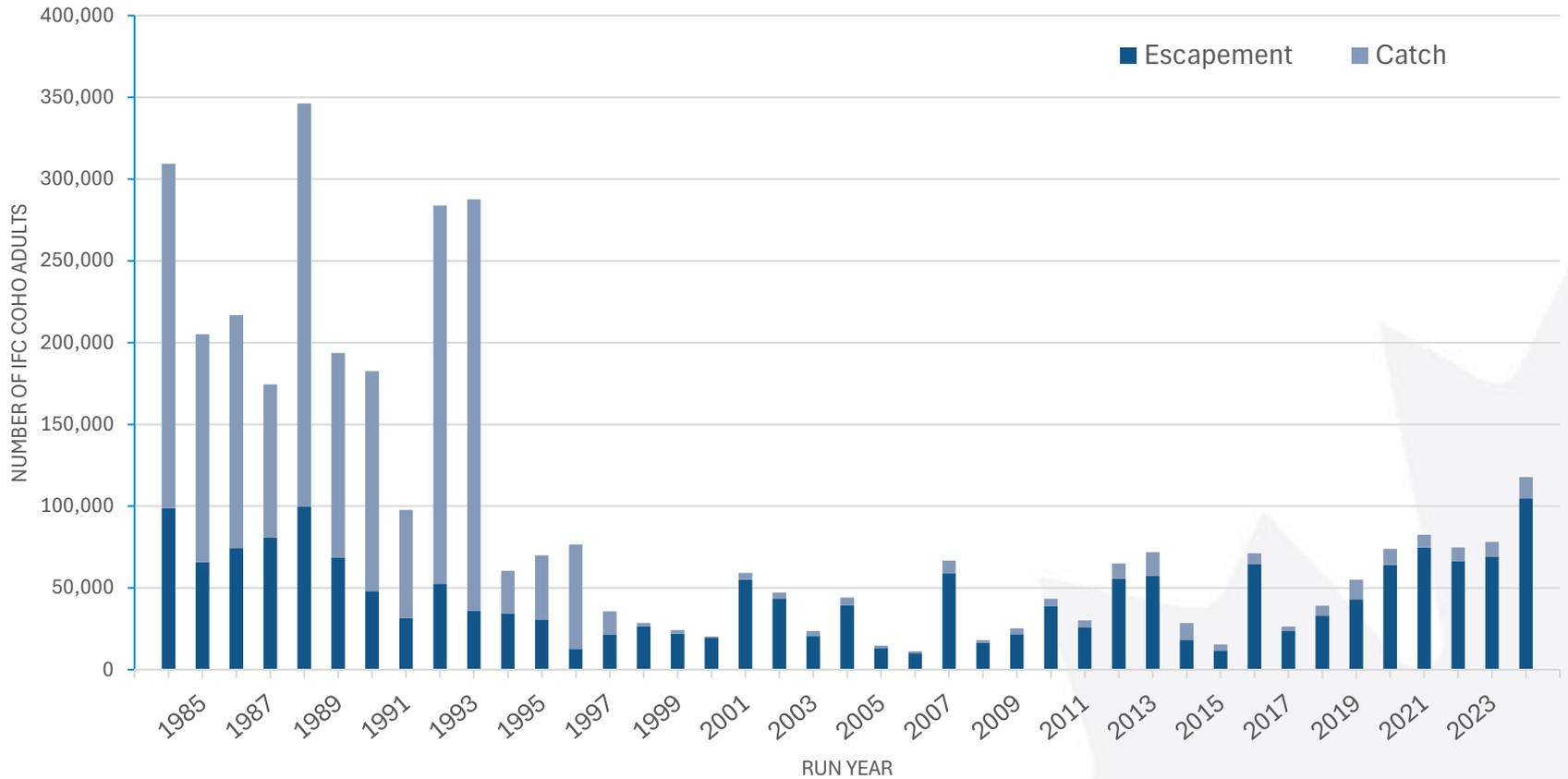
Fraser River Coho Background:



- Fraser River Coho
 - Lower Fraser River – Many spawning sites in lower Fraser River.
 - Interior Fraser Coho (IFR) – Return to upper Fraser and Thompson Rivers.
- Fraser migration occurs August through November
- IFC populations have declined dramatically from peak abundances observed in the 1980s.
- Escapement programs and management objectives mostly focus on IFC, but new programs are in development for Lower Fraser Coho.

Figure 1: IFR Coho Stock Status

IFR COHO STOCK STATUS – CATCH VS. ESCAPEMENT



Interior Fraser River Coho - Status

Pacific Salmon Treaty reference points and exploitation rate caps:

| | Low | Moderate | Abundant |
|--------------------------------------|-----|----------|----------|
| Survival (CWT Indicator Programs) | | | |
| Escapement | | | |
| ER cap (US/Can) | | | |

Interior Fraser River Coho – Status

- Smolt-to-adult survival:

| Return Year | CWT Survival | Moderate PST Survival Goal Met in 3 Years? | PST Status |
|-------------|--------------|--|------------|
| 2015 | 0.7% | No | Low |
| 2016 | 1.3% | No | Low |
| 2017 | 1.0% | No | Low |
| 2018 | 1.4% | No | Low |
| 2019 | 1.6% | No | Low |
| 2020 | 1.9% | No | Low |
| 2021 | 3.2% | No | Low |
| 2022 | 2.1% | No | Low |
| 2023 | 2.1% | No | Low |
| 2024 | 3.0% | No | Low |

2025 assessment for Interior Fraser River Coho is not yet available

Interior Fraser River Coho – Status

- Escapement:

Estimates of abundance for Interior Fraser Coho for 2015-2024 and corresponding achievement of moderate status abundance objective.

| Return Year | Short Term Sub Pop Goal* | Natural Origin Escapement | Goal Met in Three Consecutive Years |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2015 | No | 11,651 | No |
| 2016 | Yes | 64,163 | No |
| 2017 | No | 23,651 | No |
| 2018 | Yes | 33,044 | No |
| 2019 | Yes | 41,393 | No |
| 2020 | Yes | 68,130 | Yes |
| 2021 | Yes | 78,270 | Yes |
| 2022 | Yes | 70,311 | Yes |
| 2023 | Yes | 69,228 | Yes |
| 2024 | Yes | 104,658 | Yes |

*three consecutive years of greater than 1,000 in half the sub populations within a CU in each of the 5 CUs.

2025 Assessment for Interior Fraser River Coho is not yet available

Interior Fraser River Coho – Status

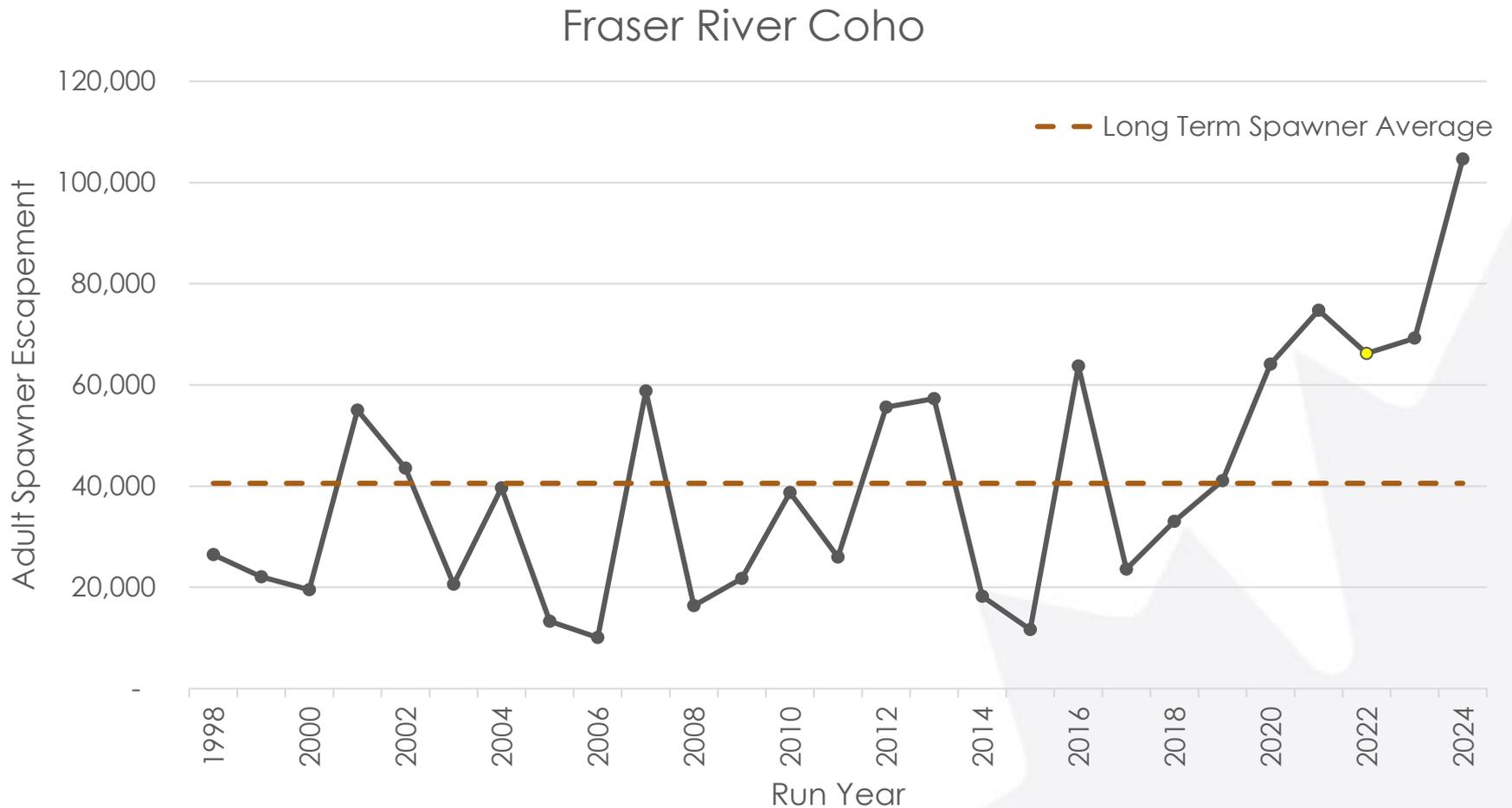
- Status for 2025:

| | Low | Moderate | Abundant |
|--|---|---|---|
| Survival (CWT Indicator Programs) | S ≤ 0.03 | Three consecutive years 0.03 < S ≤ 0.06 | Three consecutive years S > 0.06 |
| | | and | and |
| Escapement | Monitored in CU's and subpops but no thresholds | Three consecutive years: · Half of subpops in each CU > 1000; or · Moderate Aggregate MU esc. objective | Three consecutive years: · All IFR subpops in each CU > 1000; or · Abundant Aggregate MU esc. objective |
| ER cap (US/Can) | 0.20 (0.10/0.10) | 0.30 (0.12/0.18) | 0.45 (0.15/0.30) |

IFR Coho 2025 Pre-season Forecast

- Brood year escapement (2022): 66,200
- The 2025 pre-fishery abundance forecast for IFR Coho was 107,000 with an 80% forecast range of 85,500-138,000.
- The moderate aggregate MU escapement goal was met in each of 2018-2024.

Figure 2b: IFR Coho Escapement



2025 Fraser River Catch – Coho

- First Nations
 - Hatchery marked Coho bycatch retention prior to the IFR Coho window closure.
 - Hatchery Marked Coho and wild Coho bycatch retention after the IFR Coho window closure.
- Recreational: Hatchery marked Coho
 - Permitted at the mouth of the Fraser River and tidal waters of the Fraser River Mainstem (effective Nov 4).
 - Permitted in some Lower Fraser tributaries (effective Sept/Oct to Dec 31).
- Commercial
 - No opportunities.

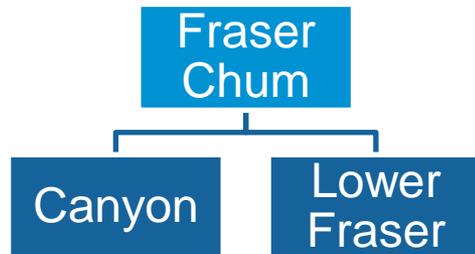
Table 1: Coho Catch Estimates

| | Kept | Released |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| First Nations | | |
| FSC | 2,916 | 40 |
| Economic Opportunity - Dual fishing (SK directed) | 10 | 5 |
| Recreational | 23,857 | 25,518 |
| Commercial | 0 | 22 |
| ESSR | 32,650 | |
| Total | 59,433 | 25,585 |

- Estimates are preliminary and subject to change.
- Final catch estimates will be available early 2026.

Fraser River Chum Background:

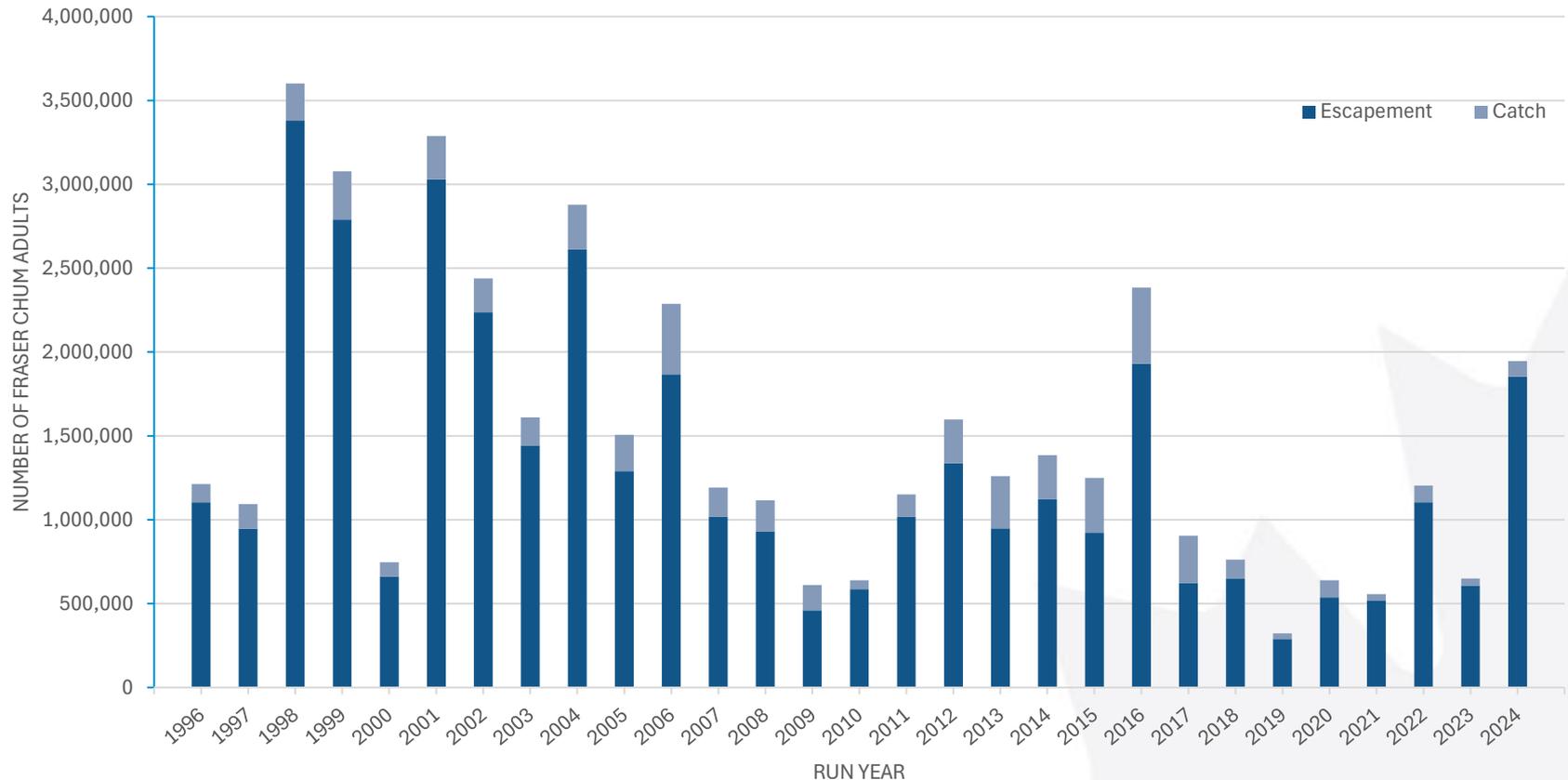
- 2 Conservation units grouped under one Management Unit



- Fraser migration spawning occurs below Hope.
- Peak return through Albion is mid- to late October.
- Escapement goal set at 800,000.

Figure 1: Fraser River Chum Stock Status

FRASER RIVER CHUM STOCK STATUS – CATCH VS. ESCAPEMENT



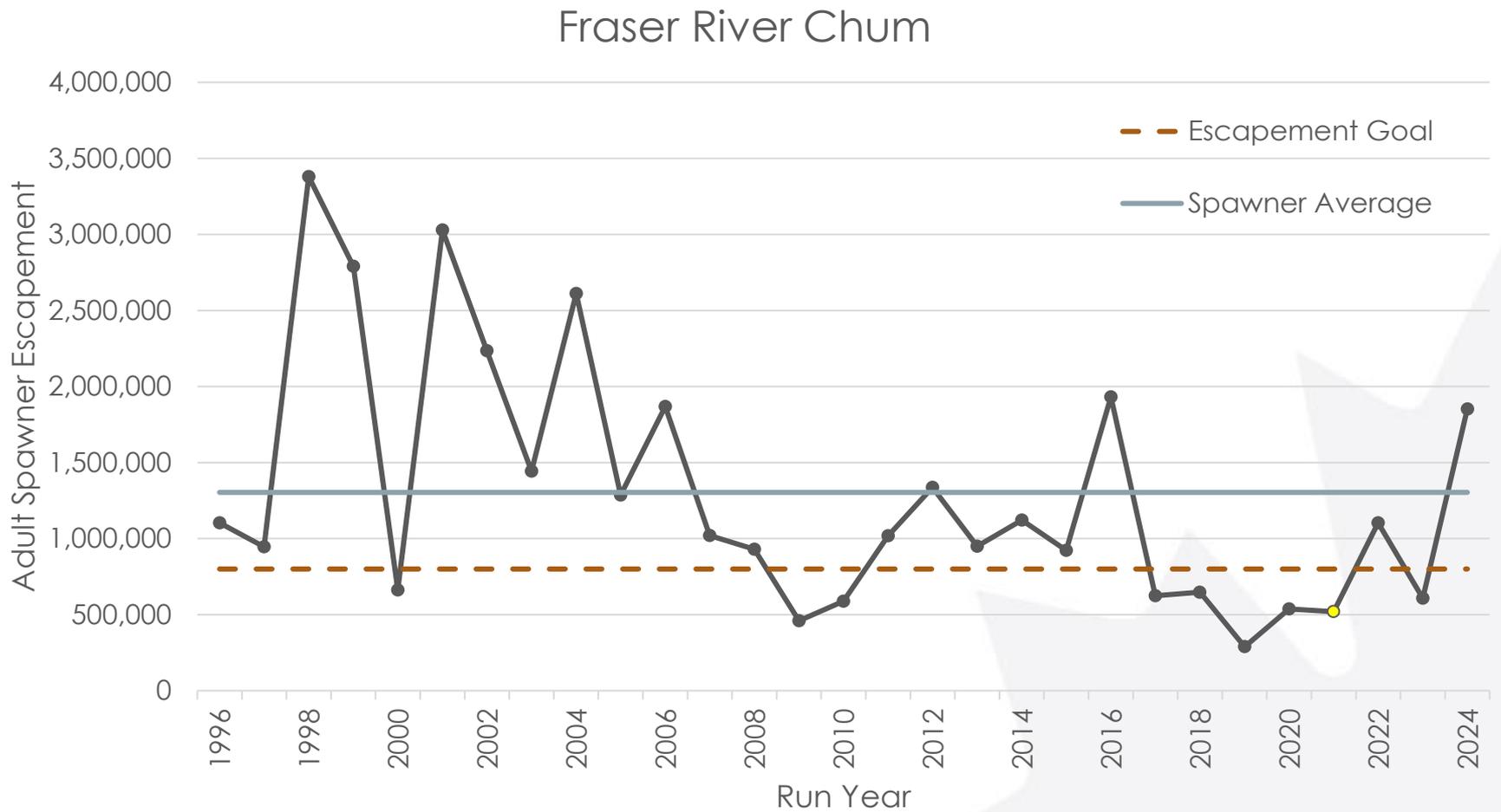
Fraser Chum Pre-season Forecast

- The qualitative salmon outlook for 2025 is for a “below average” return. Formal quantitative forecasts are not prepared for Fraser Chum.
- Brood year escapement (2021): 533,000
- Spawning escapement outperformed brood in the most recent three years (2022-2024).

Fraser Chum In-season Update

- Managed based on in-season information derived from the Albion Test Fishery.
- Run-size model output
 - *October 15 preliminary:*
 - 600,000 (305,000 – 1,171,000) (FN1095)
 - *October 22 update:*
 - 388,000 (311,000 – 490,000) (FN1124)
 - *October 27 final in-season update:*
 - 616,000 (457,000 – 833,000) (FN1146)

Figure 2b: Fraser Chum Escapement



2025 Fraser River Catch – Chum

- First Nations
 - Full allocation after the IFR Coho window closure.
- Recreational
 - Non-retention permitted in some Lower Fraser tributaries (Oct 31 to Nov 30).
- Commercial
 - No opportunities.
 - Area E - Gill Net: Long-term commercial closer since 2023
 - Area B – Seine: At terminal run sizes less than 916,000, no commercial Chum TAC is available.

2025 Fraser River Catch – Chum

| | <u>Kept</u> | <u>Released</u> |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| First Nations | | |
| FSC | 36,674 | 0 |
| Economic Opportunity - Dual fishing (SK directed) | 0 | 2 |
| Recreational | 103 | 7,601 |
| Commercial | 0 | 1 |
| ESSR | 13,655 | |
| Total | 50,432 | 7,604 |

- Estimates are preliminary and subject to change.
- Final catch estimates will be available early 2026.



Thank you



2025 Albion Test Fishery Summary

Dates

Chinook-directed
single panel (8"):
Apr. 20 – Oct. 20

Chinook-directed
multi-panel (6-9"):
Apr. 21 – Aug. 31

Chum-directed
single panel (6.75"):
Sep. 1 – Nov. 23

Catch

Chinook: 1,289

Chum: 3,354

Coho: 100

Sockeye: 770

Pink: 1,715

Steelhead: 0