

M.E.S.S.S. Report - Rotation 1

Mainland Enhancement of Salmonoid Species Society
DFO Area 12 Stock Assessment 2026

Enumeration Period: August 16, 2026 - August 20, 2026

Stream Technicians: Robert Humenny, Leila Krichel

1a. 2026 Stream Escapement and Biosample Data

Table 1. Area 12 systems escapement and biosample data. Non-bold numbers represent observed salmon counts. Bold numbers represent estimates factoring in observer efficiency. Abbreviations: Pink (PK), Chum (CM), Coho (CO), Jacks (JK), Sockeye (SK), 20 minute estuary survey (20 min.).

Stream	Date	PK	CM	CO	JK	SK	Morts (PK/CM/ CO)	20 Min	Air Temp	H2O Temp	pH	DO mg/L
Hada	Aug. 17	26472 / 31630	25 / 35	8 / 11	0	2 / 3	175 / 0 / 0	1	18.6	14.6	8.60	119.0
Wahkana	Aug. 17	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	9	15.4	12.9	7.10	131.4
Viner	Aug. 18	16 / 17	0	0	0	5 / 5	0 / 0 / 0	1	18.0	13.3	6.90	135.6
Shoal	Aug. 16	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	7	14.2	14.1	6.86	130
Scott Cove	Aug. 16			0	0			24	16.4	17.1	6.00	111.6
Maple	Aug. 20	0	0	0	0	0	0/0/0	0	14.1	13.5	5.66	132.8
Carriden	Aug. 19	936 / 1248	0	0	0	0	24 / 0 / 0	34	17.6	19.7	7.02	122.5
Embley	Aug. 19	5097 / 9983	0	2 / 4	0	0	8 / 0 / 0	156	17.1	18.6	6.76	128.8

2. Rotation Highlights

Weather:

- Foggy mornings, often clearing around noon or early afternoon.

Water Levels/Quality:

- Lack of rain in recent weeks have resulted in very low water levels in all rivers.

Visibility:

- Adequate visibility

Notes:

- Active logging in Scott Cove and Shoal creeks.
- Decent number of fish holding in Scott Cove and Shoal estuaries--fish waiting to move upstream.
- Highest number of fish observed in Carriden and Embley creeks since 2014 in a single rotation. Thousands of pink salmon are holding in Embley creek estuary.
- Did not complete the survey in Hada due to high tide in the tidal area of the river. Missed segment 1 and half of segment 4--likely more fish in the stream than we were actually able to count.

Shoal Harbour Creek

August 16, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photos 1 and 2: Low water levels in Shoal creek.

Estuary Survey

- 7 jumpers - two appeared smaller...pinks?
- Salmon adjacent species: 5 gulls, 1 kingfisher, 3 crows

River Notes

- Water level was very low and the forest was quite dry. Fish staging in estuary, likely waiting for rainfall before they move upstream.
- No signs of adult salmon in the river, but some bear tracks along the banks.
- 27 fry--potentially coho fry. 2 trout

Shoal Harbour Creek

August 16, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

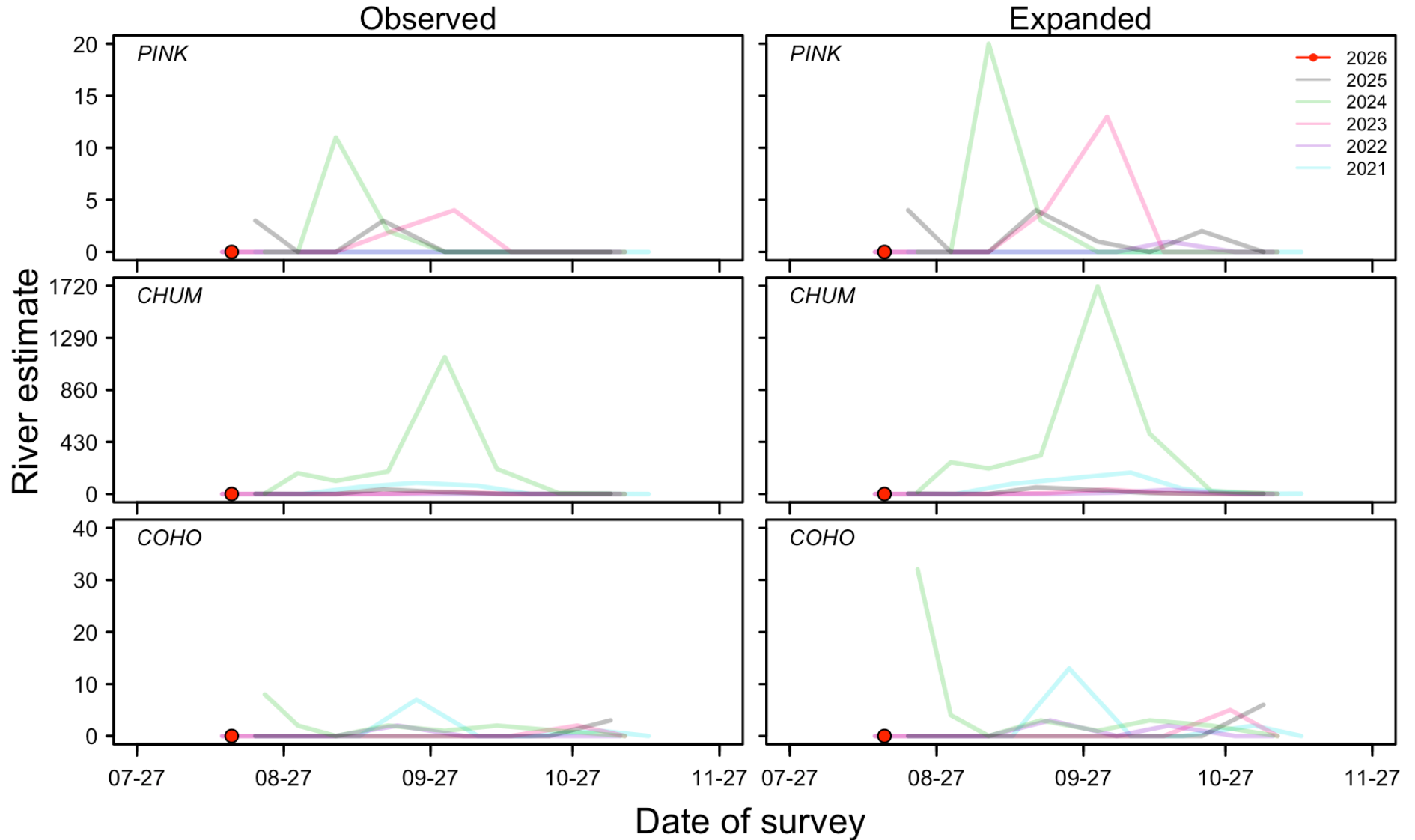


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Shoal creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year. Note the different y-axis scales for each species.

Scott Cove Creek

August 16, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: View of waterfall #1.

Photo 2: Black bear in estuary.

Estuary Survey

- 24 jumpers
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 black bear, 1 seal, 2 kingfisher, 2 ducks, 5 gulls

River Notes

- Low water levels in the creek but fish appear to be staging in the estuary.
- Active logging occurring nearby

Scott Cove Creek

August 16, 2026

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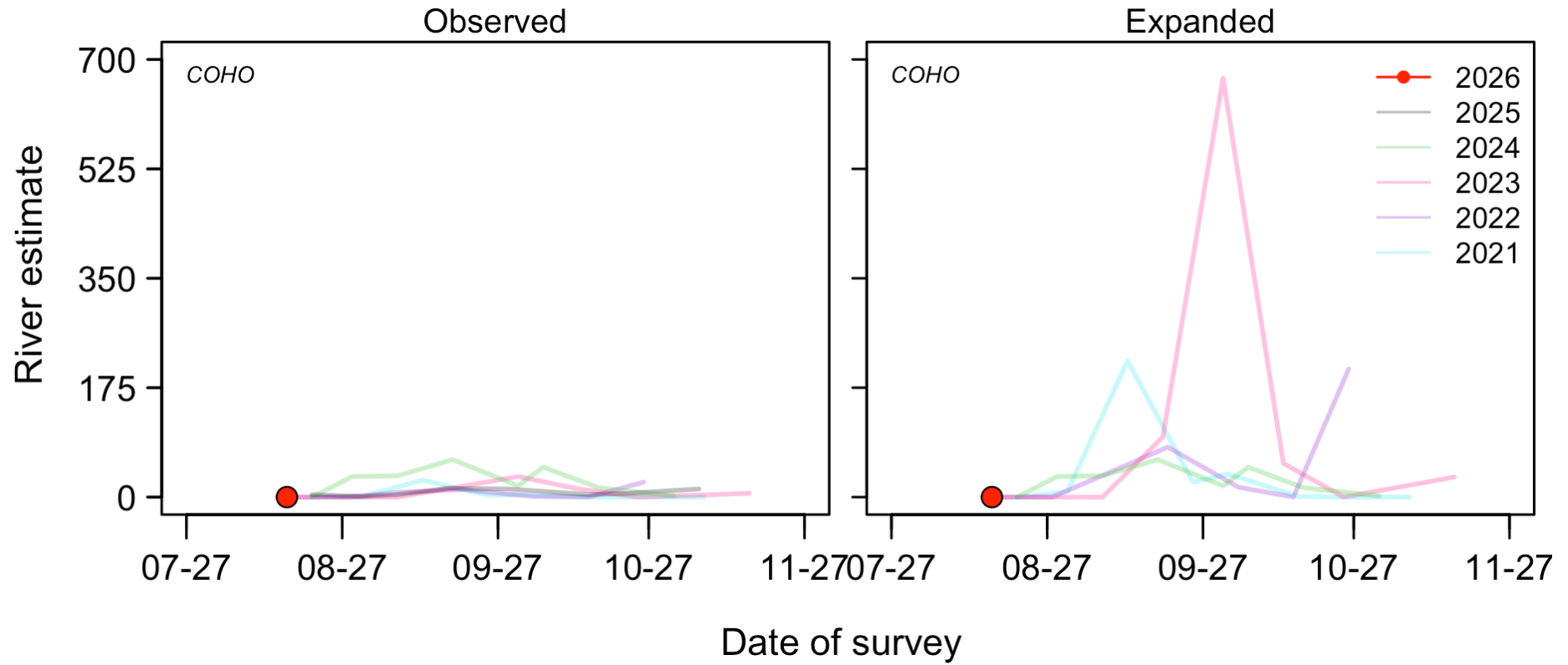


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Scott Cove creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year. Note the different y-axis scales for each species.

Hada River

August 17, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, Mathieu (from Hada Camp)



Photo 1: Low water levels in Hada river.

Photo 2: Fish (mostly pinks) in the pool at the bottom of large waterfall.

Estuary Survey

- 1 jumper
- Salmon adjacent species: 40 gulls, 1 humpback

River Notes

- Low water levels in the river but lots of fish holding in pool below waterfall (segment 3) and in biosample pool (segment 2)
- **High tide in river tidal area made segment 1 unsurveyable and parts of segment 4 unsurveyable--likely more fish in the river than we were actually able to count**
- Small grizzly bear (2-3 years old) fishing for salmon in segment 3 downstream of waterfall.

Hada River

August 17, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, and Mathieu (from Hada Camp)

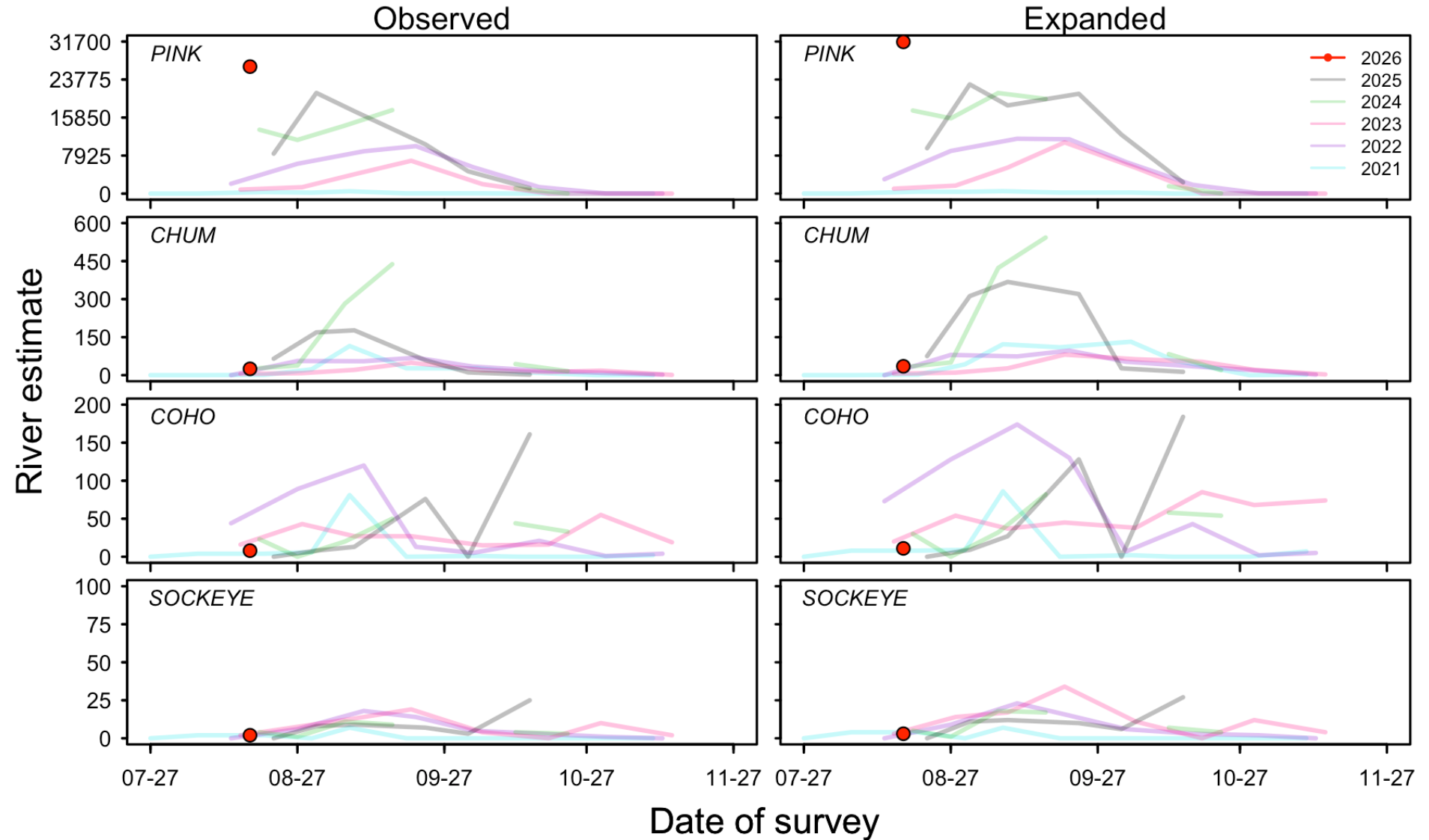


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Hada River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year. Note the different y-axis scales for each species.

Wahkana River

August 17, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Estuary Survey

- 9 jumpers, school of 6 chum and one unidentified salmon
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 kingfisher, 2 ravens

River Notes

- No fish in segment 1 or first half of segment 2. But some chum staging in the estuary.
- Started clearing segment 2 but extremely overgrown.

Wahkana River

August 17, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

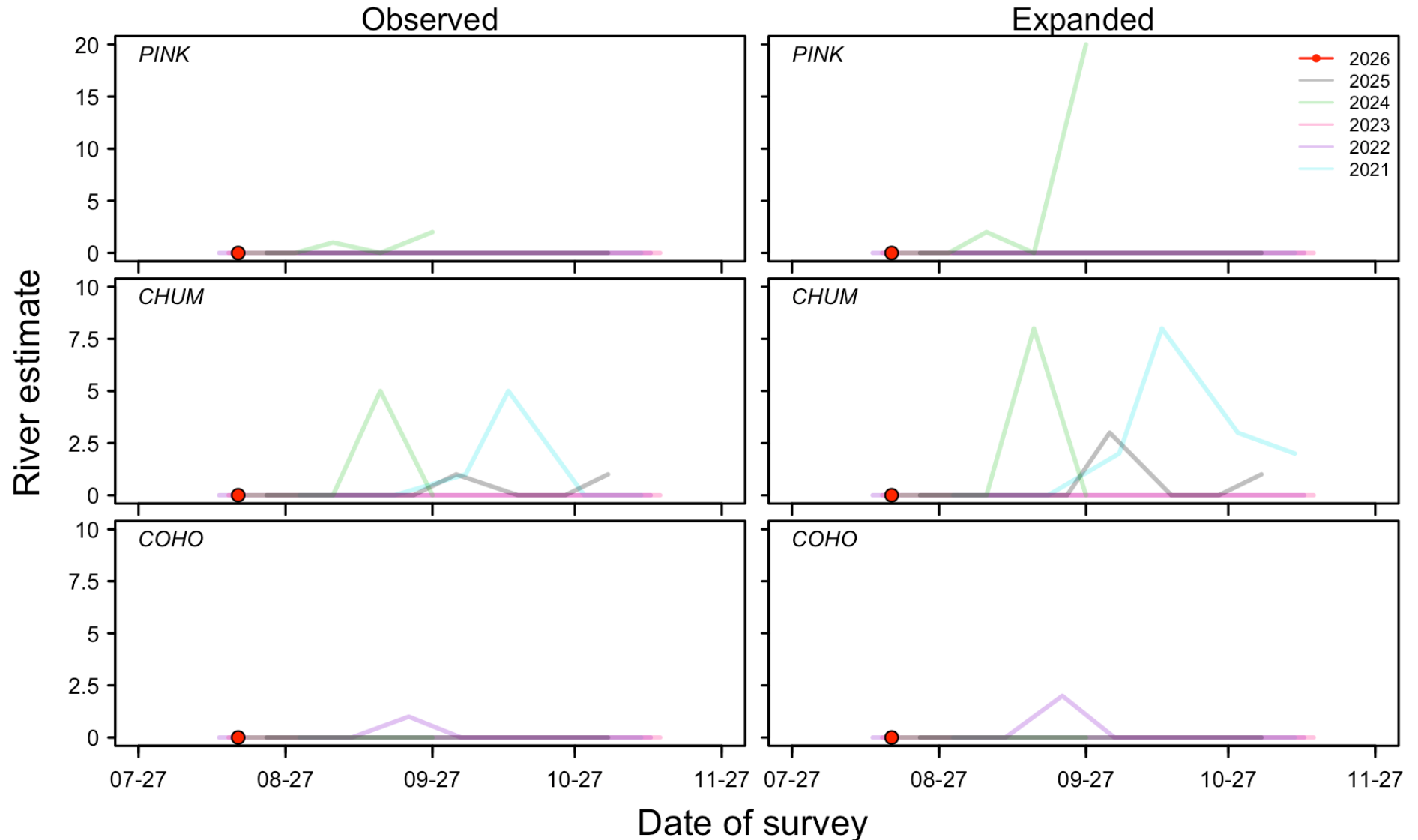


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Wahkana River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year. Note the different y-axis scales for each species.

Viner River

August 18, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photos 1 and 2: Low water levels in Viner.

Estuary Survey

- 3 jumpers
- Salmon adjacent species: 2 kingfisher, 1 black bear, 3 ravens, 40 gulls

River Notes

- The water level in the river is extremely low. Parts of the river are dried out.
- Most fish were observed holding in a deep pool at the top of the riffle section in segment 2. Low water levels allowed for decent species identification (pink and sockeye).
- Many fry in the river.

Viner River

August 18, 2026

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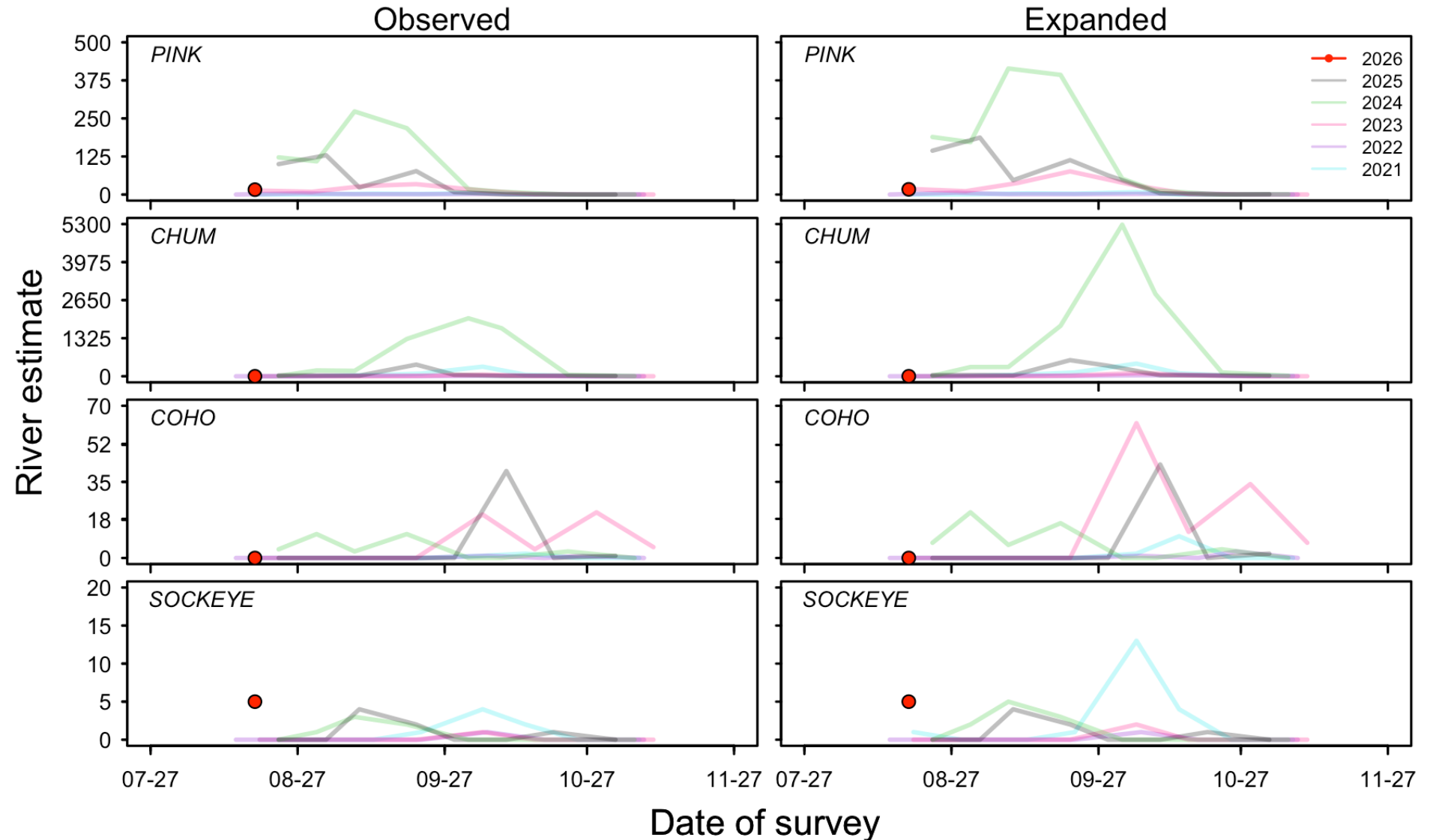


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Viner River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year. Note the different y-axis scales for each species.

Carriden Creek

August 19, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photos 1 and 2: Dense schools of pink salmon in segment 1 of the creek.

Photo 3: Water level in the creek--tends to be a bit higher than other creeks.

Estuary Survey

- 34 jumpers, 4 pink morts, school of approximately a couple hundred at the mouth of the river.
- Salmon adjacent species: 3 kingfisher, 2 gulls, 4 mergansers

River Notes

- Large schools of pink salmon holding in most parts of segment 1 of the creek. Fish did not go beyond the large log jam before the biosample pool (~600m up the creek).

Carriden Creek

August 19, 2026

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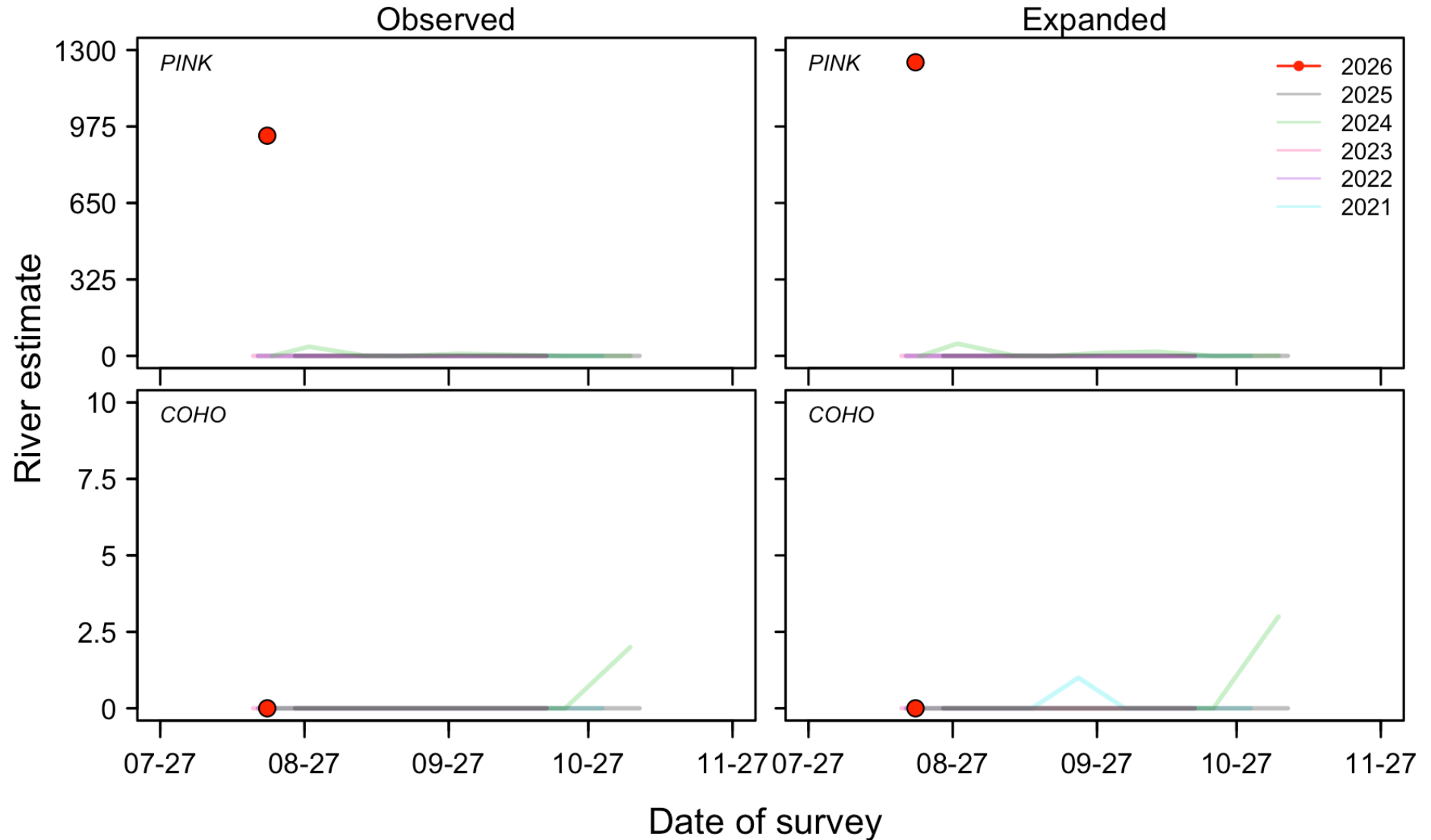


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Carriden creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year. Note the different y-axis scales for each species.

Embley River

August 19, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Grizzly prints along the river bank.

Photo 2: School of pink salmon before cascades ~2200m up river

Estuary Survey

- Thousands of pink salmon holding in the estuary. 156 jumpers in 20 minutes.
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 kingfisher, 60 gulls, 1 eagle, 2 ravens, grizzly bear prints

River Notes

- Pinks throughout segments 2 and 3 of the river, but especially dense in the latter. Largest school was by the gravel before the cascade (about 1500 fish, ~2000m up the river). We stopped counting at the start of the cascades (out of time!).
- Lots of grizzly activity along the river banks.

Embley River

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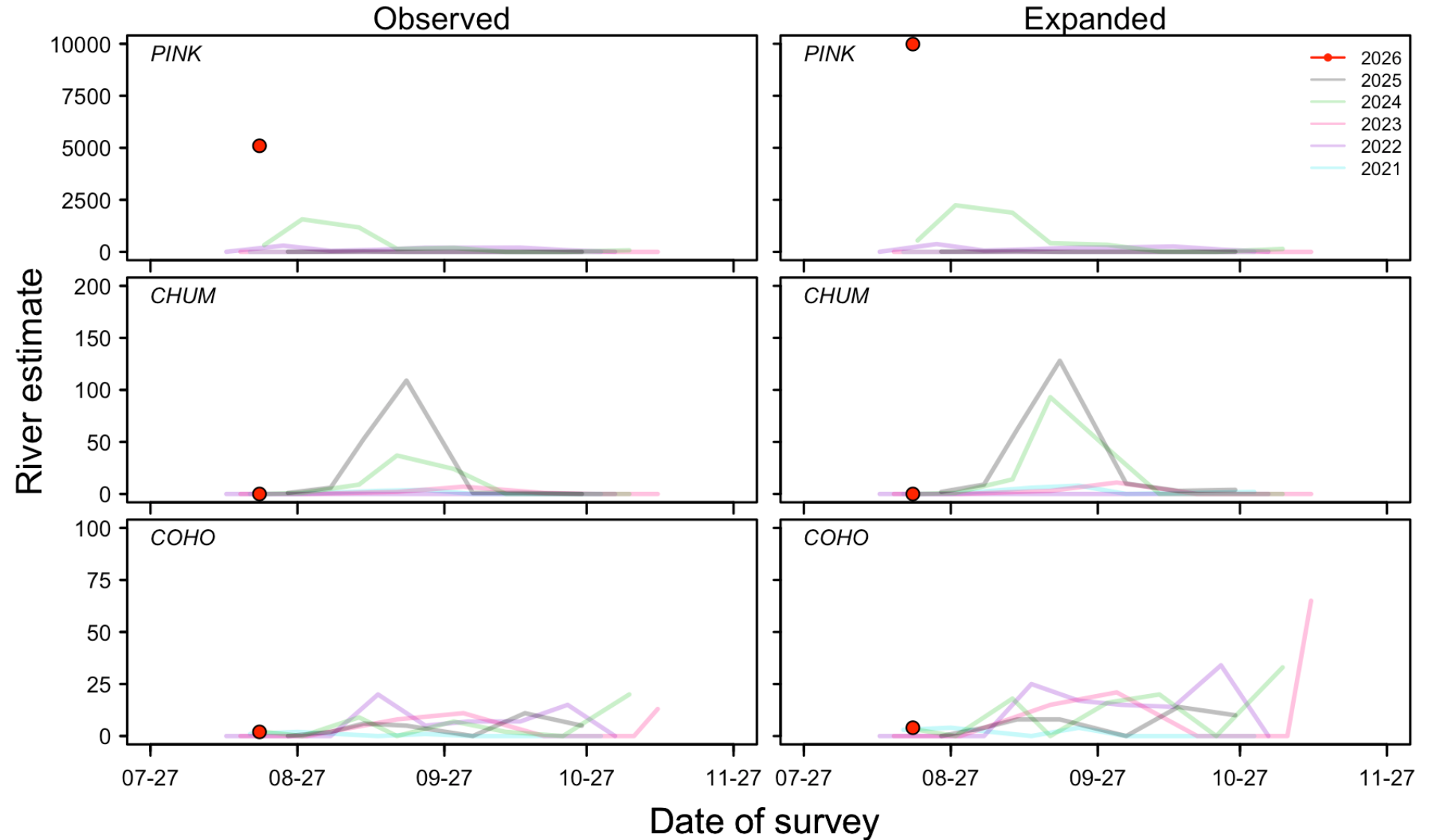


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Embley River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year. Note the different y-axis scales for each species.