

M.E.S.S.S. Report - Rotation 3
Mainland Enhancement of Salmonoid Species Society
DFO Area 12 Stock Assessment 2026

Enumeration Period: September 04, 2026 - September 09, 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 (jumpers observed / school size of salmon). *pH and DO metres are not providing reliable measurements.

Stream	Date	PK	CM	CO	JK	SK	Morts (PK/CM/CO)	20 Min (jumpers / school size)	Air Temp	H2O Temp	pH	DO mg/L
Shoal	Sept. 04	1 / 2	28 / 41	4 / 14	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	5 / NA	14.6	15.1		
Hada	Sept. 05	42096 / 45505	251 / 387	86 / 123	1	13 / 17	42 / 14 / 0	1 / 1000+	16.7	13.0		
Wahkana	Sept. 05	1 / 2	0	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	0 / 20	14.3	12.1		
Maple	Sept. 06	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	1 / 100 +	15.3	13.8		
Gilford	Sept. 06	0	0	1 / 10	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	1 / NA	NA	NA		
Scott Cove	Sept. 06			278	24			0 / NA	19.0	19.2		
Carriden	Sept. 07	721 / 848	0	0	0	0	373 / 0 / 0	62 / 100 +	17.5	18.7		
Simoom	Sept. 07	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	0 / NA	17.5	13.6		
Embley	Sept. 08	18278 / 29486	2 / 8	49 / 130	0	1 / 1	73 / 1 / 0	2 / 1000 +	16.2	17.3		
Viner	Sept. 09	202 / 276	124 / 175	10 / 12	0	1 / 1	0 / 1 / 0	3 / NA	21.9	13.6		

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 most rivers.

Visibility:

- Visibility has been good, in part due to low water.

Notes:

- Lots of grizzly activity in Hada and Embley.
- While lots of fish were holding in Scott Cove, Shoal, Hada, Carriden, and Embley estuaries, it seems that most have gone up at this point.

Shoal Harbour Creek

September 04, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, Maria Kuruvilla (Salmon Coast), Jack Capener (Salmon Coast)



Photos 1 and 2: Obscured visibility in Shoal this week in dark pools and in white water sections.

Estuary Survey

- 5 jumpers
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 kingfisher, 5 ravens, 54 gulls

River Notes

- Water levels are higher than in recent weeks.
- Some coho and chum have moved into the river, but high / dark water made it difficult to get a reliable count.

Shoal Harbour Creek

September 04, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, Maria Kuruvilla (Salmon Coast), Jack Capener (Salmon Coast)

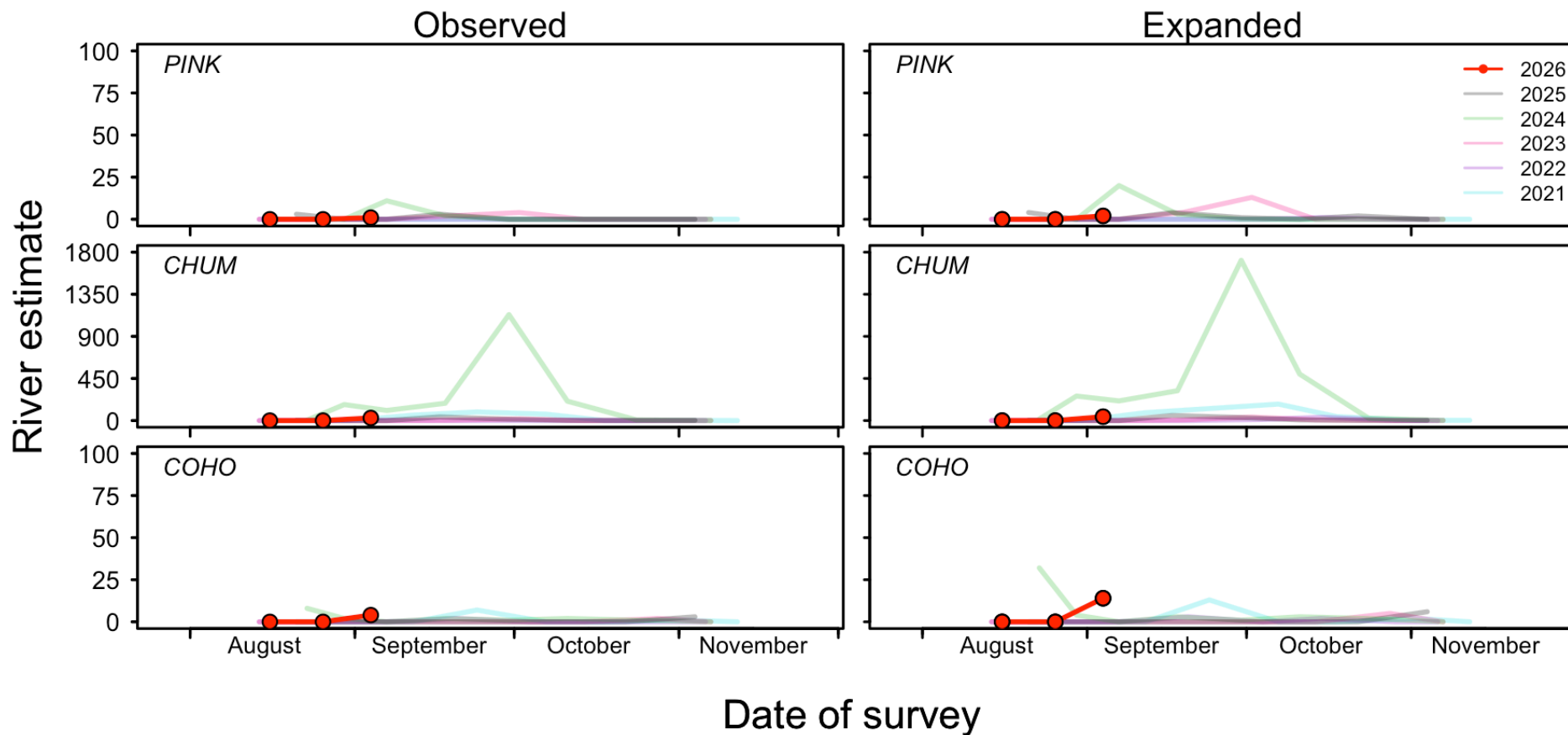


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Shoal creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Hada River

September 05, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, Sam Beckert (Salmon Coast), Callum Tait (Salmon Coast), Jack Capener (Salmon Coast)



Photos 1 and 2. Dense holding pools in segments 2 and 3.

Estuary Survey

- 1 jumper, school of 1000+ pink waiting in the estuary
- Salmon adjacent species: 5 humpback whales, 1 seal, 2 eagles, 7 geese, 7 mergansers

River Notes

- Not as many pink morts observed as in previous week--may have been washed away with higher water from rain.
- Chum appear to be in the middle of spawning. Most pink are still holding in deep pools but some have started spawning.
- Coho are mostly holding in deep pools in segments 2 and 3.
- Grizzly observed in the river.

Hada River

September 05, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, Sam Beckert (Salmon Coast), Callum Tait (Salmon Coast), Jack Capener (Salmon Coast)

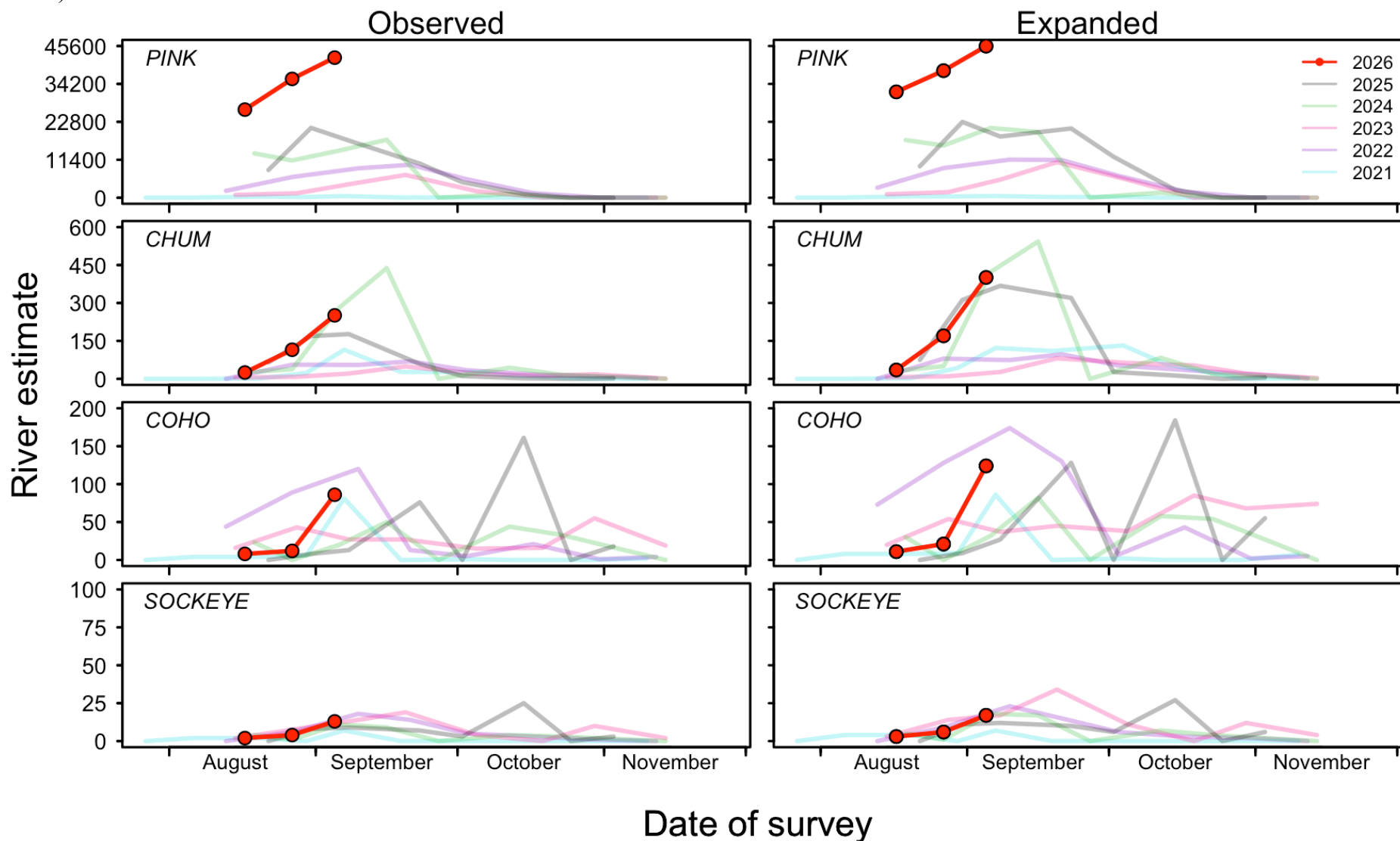


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Hada River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Wahkana Creek

September 05, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, Sam Beckert (Salmon Coast), Callum Tait (Salmon Coast), Jack Capener (Salmon Coast)-



Photo 1: Water clarity was higher than usual at Wahkana this week.

Estuary Survey

- School of 10-20 pink salmon in the estuary
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 kingfisher, 1 crow

River Notes

- Surveyed all three segments, up to Wahkana lake and the waterfall at the end of the side stream. 1 pink salmon present.

Wahkana Creek

September 05, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, Sam Beckert (Salmon Coast), Callum Tait (Salmon Coast), Jack Capener (Salmon Coast)

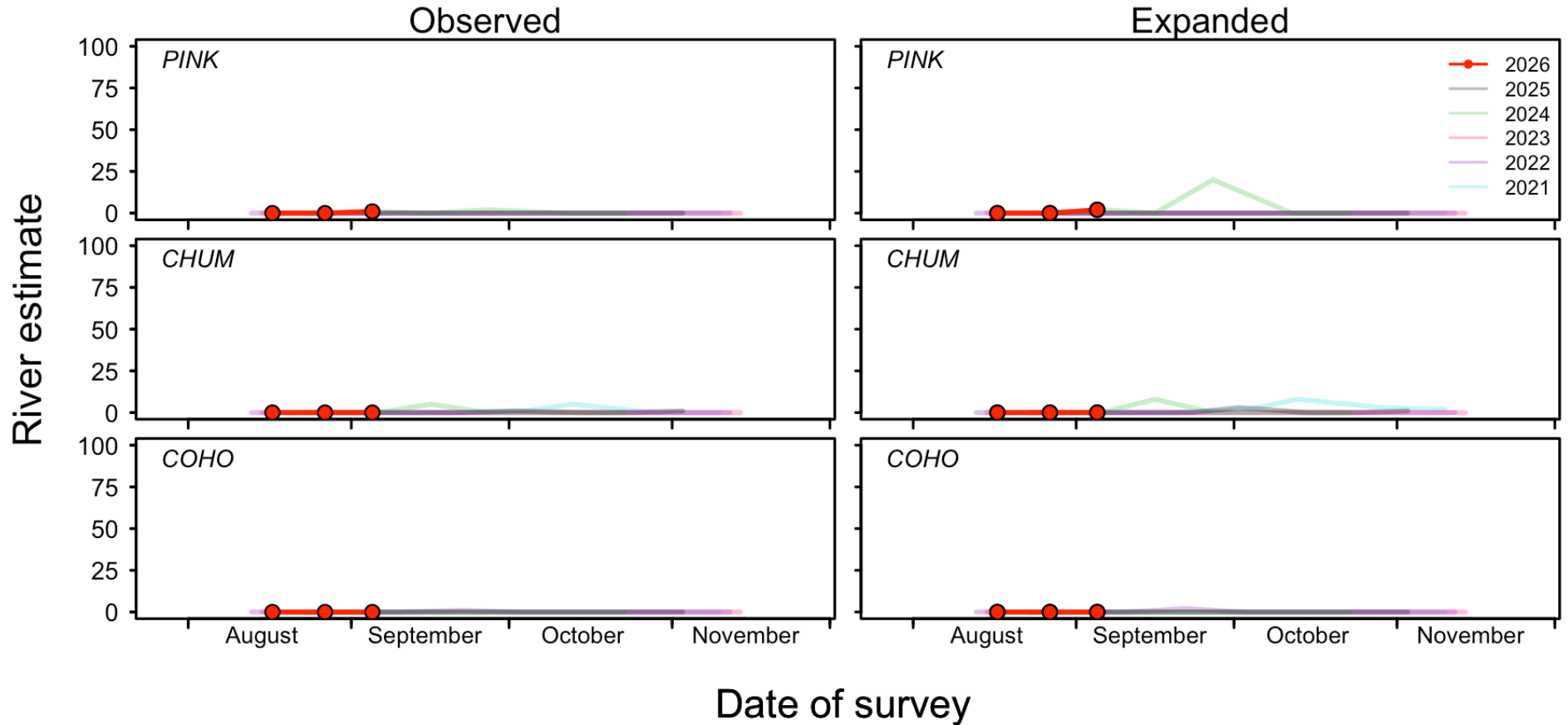


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Wahkana creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Maple Cove Creek

September 06, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Erosion at Maple Cove creek--lots of clay and sand.

Photo 2: Brushed segment 3--pretty clear now!

Estuary Survey

- 1 jumper, school of 100+ pink salmon
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 kingfisher, 2 gulls

River Notes

- Surveyed all three segments of the creek.
- Some pink salmon have been holding in the estuary for the past two rotations, but we have not observed any go up the river yet. Water has been pretty low past three rotations.

Maple Cove Creek

September 06, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

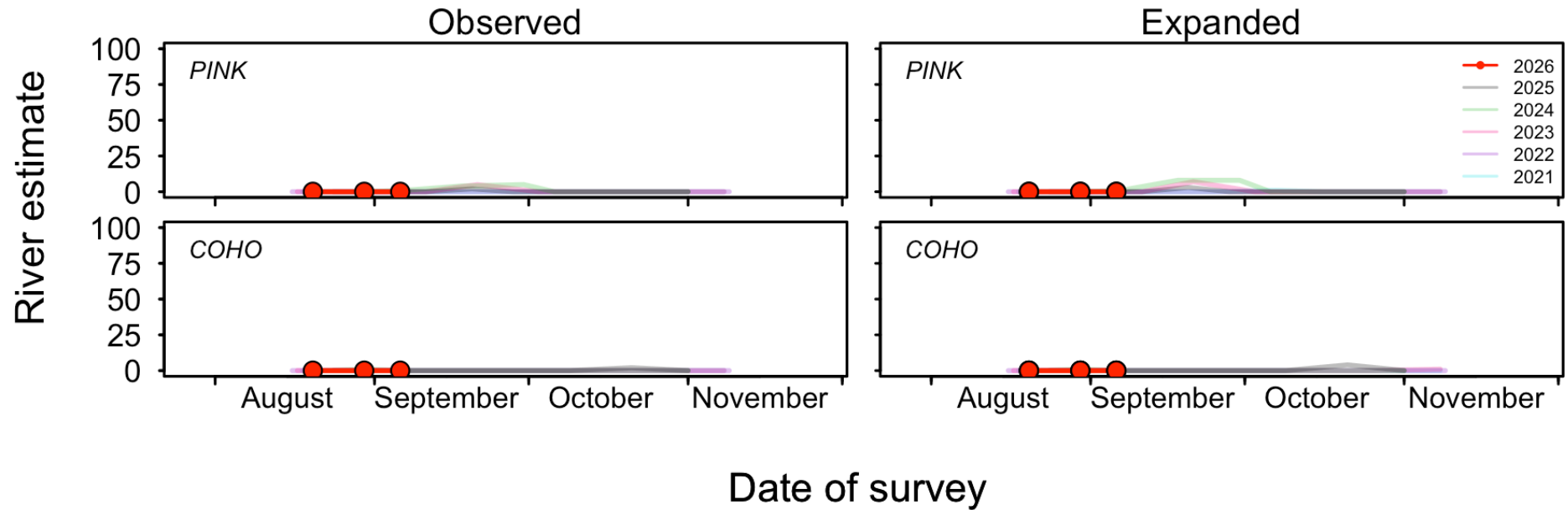


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Maple Cove creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are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

Gilford Creek

September 06, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- 2 jumpers
- Salmon adjacent species: 2 eagles, gulls

River Notes

- We only surveyed 150m of the river due to high water making it difficult to walk and dark + rushing water reducing visibility. We did see 1 coho, and could smell fish around the deep pool about 150m up the river.
- Last week we observed lots of jumpers in the estuary--likely that some have gone up the river with recent rain.

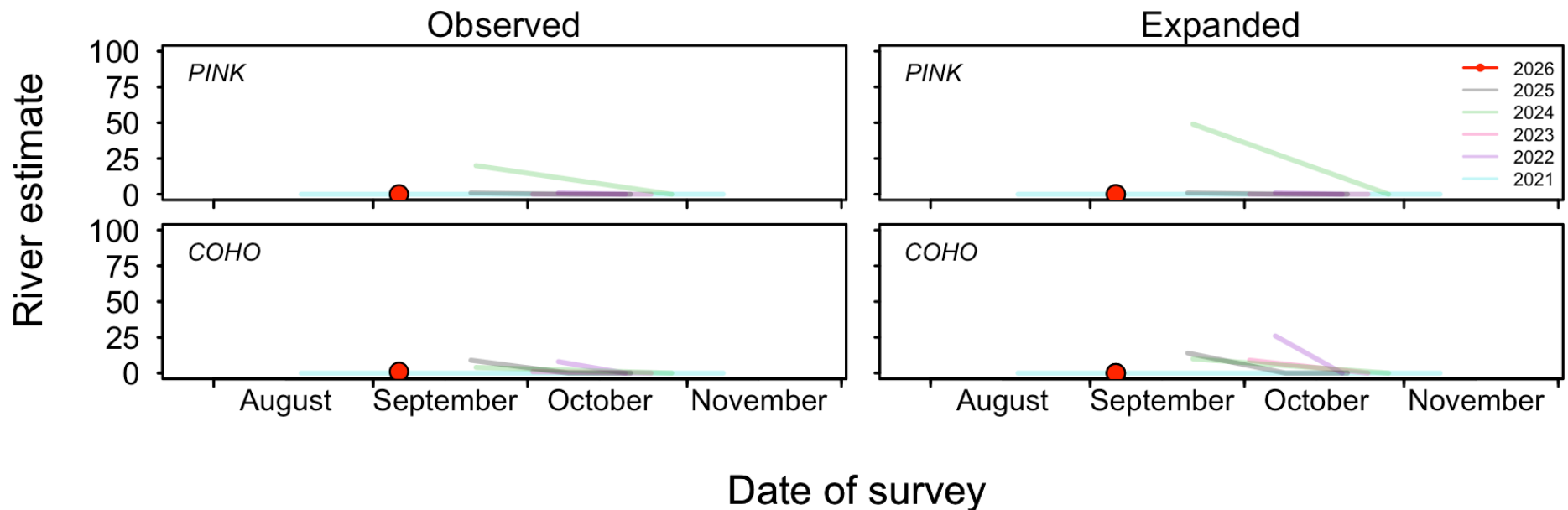


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Gilford creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Scott Cove Creek

September 06, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: View of waterfall #2. High water and lots of fish jumping.

Photo 2: Black bear with coho salmon at waterfall #2!

Estuary Survey

- Salmon adjacent species: 3 kingfishers, 1 eagle, 1 seal, 50 gulls

River Notes

- It appears that most fish have gone up the river with recent rain. Most were jumping at the first waterfall with some making it to waterfall 2, about 1.5km up the river.
- Active logging occurring nearby

Scott Cove Creek

September 06, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

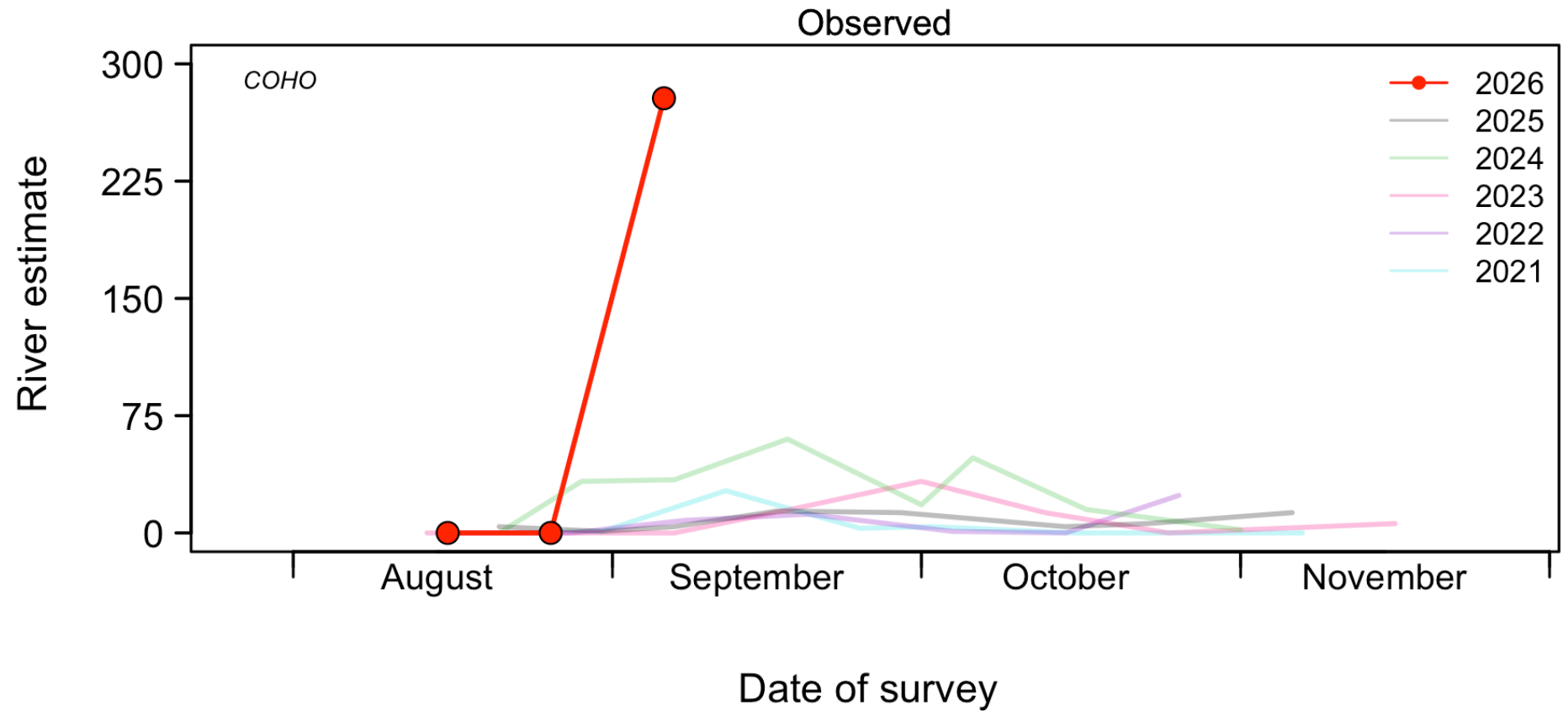


Figure: Observed waterfall counts of coho salmon in Scott Cove creek. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year.

Carriden Creek

September 07, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1. Pink mort in Carriden.

Photo 2. Decaying pink salmon eggs in the river.

Estuary Survey

- 62 jumpers, 100+ school of pink salmon
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 eagle, gulls, 1 vulture

River Notes

- Lots of pink morts scattered throughout the first 600m of the river.
- Fish made it about halfway through the large log jam before the biosample pool (~600m up the creek). Might be able to make it past the log jam with higher water, but currently blocked.
- High pink counts may be strays coming from Embley.

Carriden Creek

September 07, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

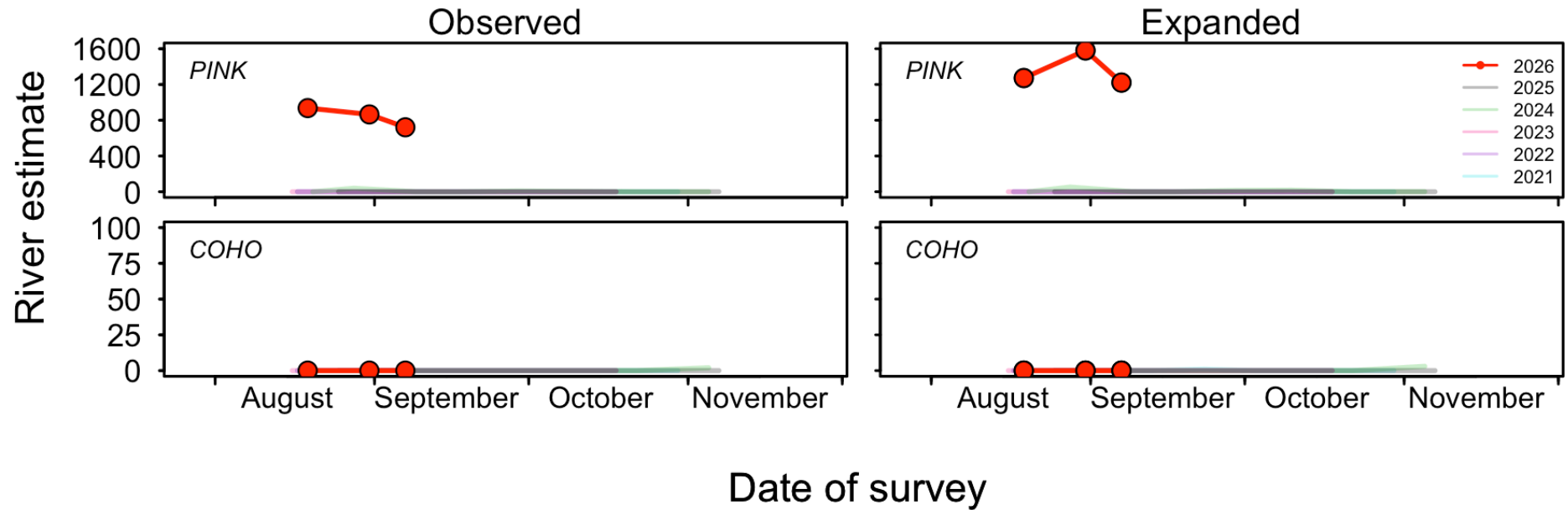


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Carriden creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Simoom Creek

September 07, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- 1 jumper
- Salmon adjacent species: none!

River Notes

- Some fry but no signs of adult fish.

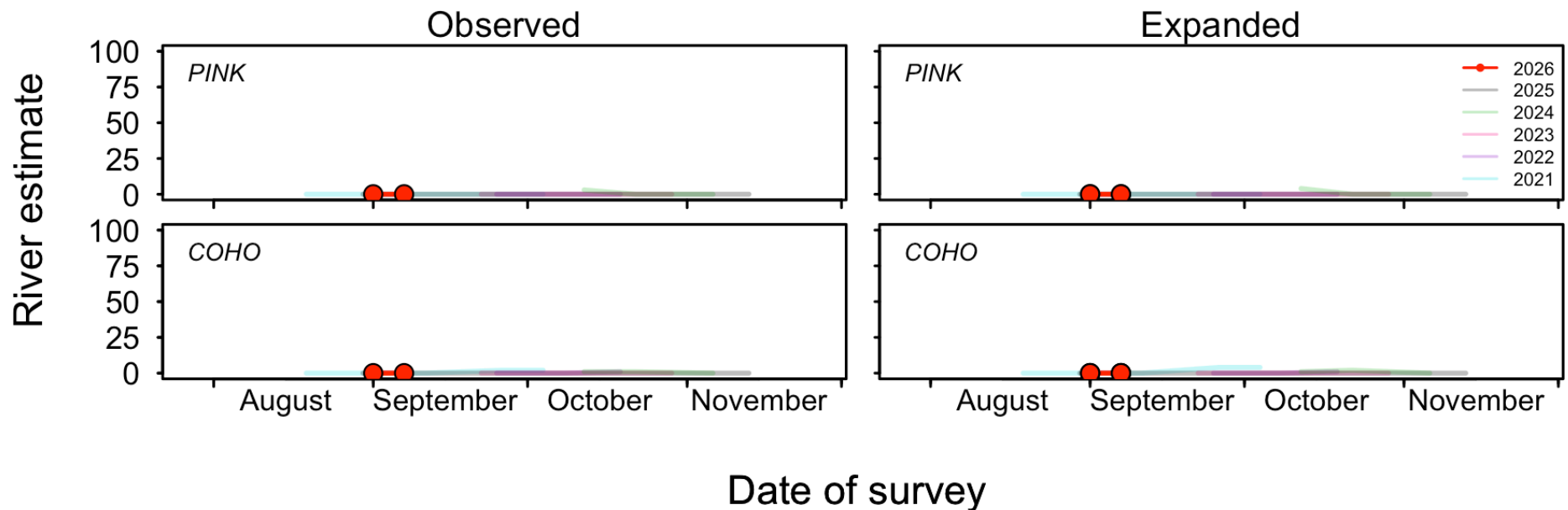


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Simoom creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Embley River

September 08, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, Miranda Stokovac (Salmon Coast Field Station)



Photo 1: Pink salmon at Embley near gravel area at the end of segment 3.

Photo 2: More fish at Embley.

Estuary Survey

- Thousands of pink salmon holding in the estuary.
- Salmon adjacent species: 2 eagles, 12 mergansers, 40 gulls

River Notes

- Some pinks still holding in Embley estuary, but seems like most have moved into the river now.
- Largest schools of pink salmon were located in segments 3 and 6. Had to stop counting right before the densest part of the river, close to the end of segment 6 nearing Huaskin lake, due to a grizzly encounter. Grizzly was fishing at deep pool where we counted ~3000 pink salmon, with another ~1500 upstream of that, in the previous rotation. We think there was more than that this rotation.

Embley River

September 08, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel, Miranda Stokovac (Salmon Coast Field Station)

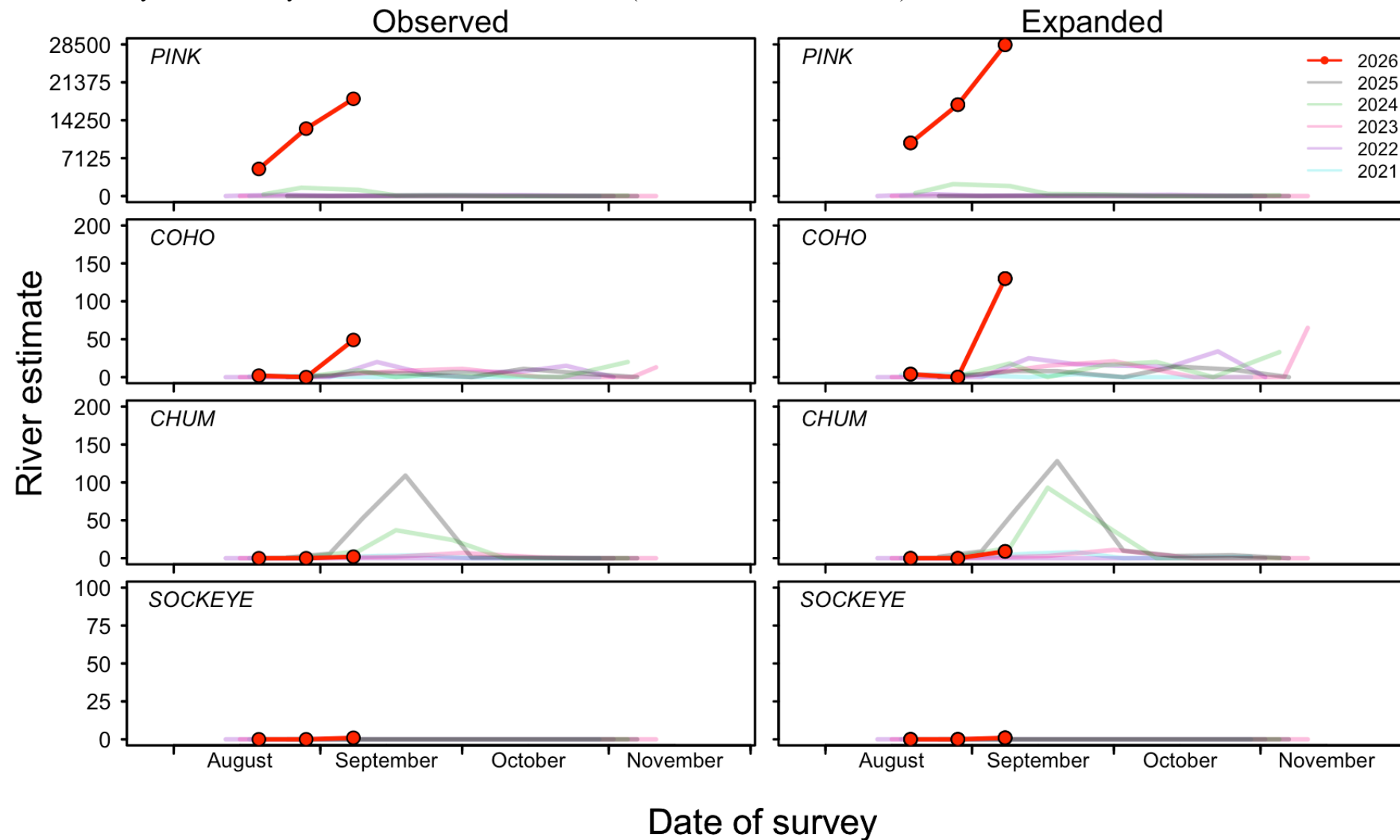


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Embley River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Viner River

September 09, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Low water at Viner biosample pool.

Estuary Survey

- 8 jumpers
- Salmon adjacent species: 50 seagulls, 2 eagles, 16 mergansers, 4 kingfishers, lots of black bear prints

River Notes

- Very low water
- Most of the salmon were found hiding under roots and logs or in deeper dark pools
- Black bear spotted in tree

Viner River

September 09, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

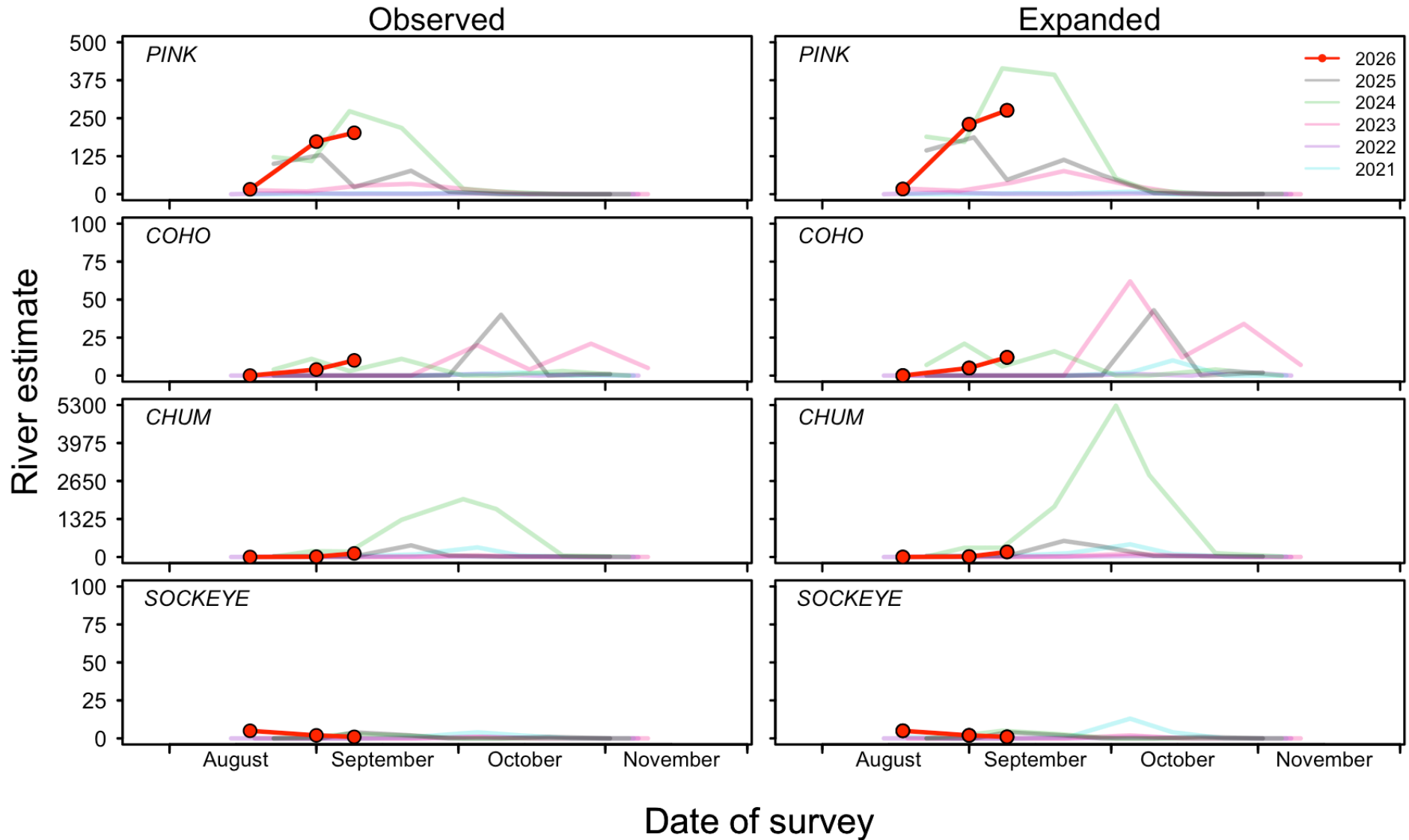


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Viner River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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