

M.E.S.S.S. Report - Rotation 4
Mainland Enhancement of Salmonoid Species Society
DFO Area 12 Stock Assessment 2026

Enumeration Period: September 14, 2026 - September 19, 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
Maple	Sept. 14	3 / 4	0	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	NA / NA	NA	NA		
Gilford	Sept. 14	2 / 4	0	9 / 18	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	NA / NA	NA	NA		
Shoal	Sept. 15	18 / 27	33 / 53	5 / 19	0	0	10 / 6 / 0	9/NA	17.8	14.3		
Scott Cove	Sept. 15			99	0		NA / NA / 1	NA / NA	17.2	17.1		
Hada	Sept. 16	36018 / 38887	163 / 201	33 / 54	1	6 / 6	539 / 120 / 0	3/1000+	15.3	12.8		
Wahkana	Sept. 16	9 / 18	1 / 2	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	2/NA	17.2	13.3		
Carriden	Sept. 17	496 / 522	0	0	0	0	276 / 0 / 0	22/100+	NA	NA		
Embley	Sept. 18	34712 / 48152	15 / 30	143 / 390	2	1 / 2	608 / 0 / 0	9/100+	16.4	16.3		
Viner	Sept. 19	181 / 213	142 / 167	4 / 5	0	0	33 / 35 / 0	13/NA	17.1	12.2		

2. Rotation Highlights

Weather:

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

Water Levels/Quality:

- Lack of rain in recent weeks has 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.
- Most fish have gone up each of the rivers now.

Maple Cove Creek

September 14, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- Some pink still staging in the estuary.
- Salmon adjacent species: 3 kingfishers, 1 eagle, 4 mallards

River Notes

- Observed pinks in the lower reaches of the river.

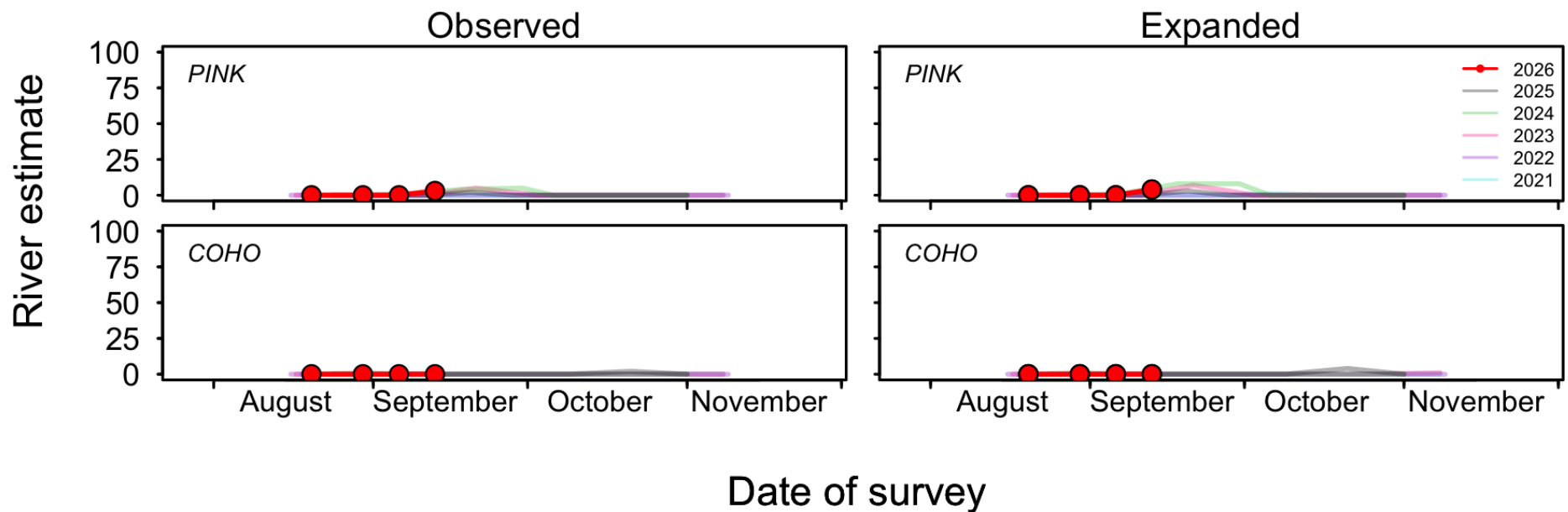


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Maple Cove creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are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

Gilford Creek

September 14, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- Salmon adjacent species: 1 black bear, 1 seal, 15 gulls

River Notes

- Encountered black bear fishing in the river so we only walked ~200m of the river.
- Strong fish smell in deep pool around ~150m up the river, but dark water obscures fish.

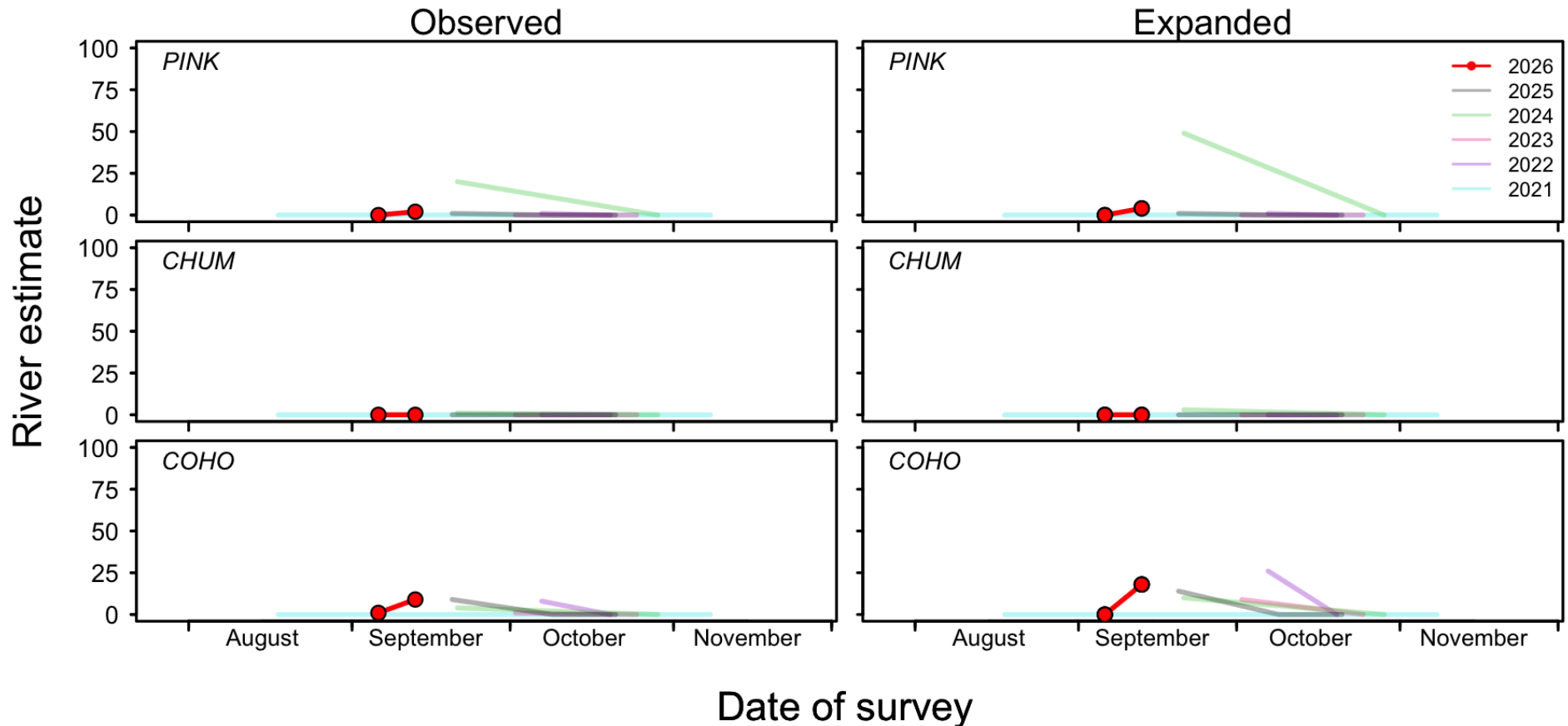


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Gilford creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Shoal Harbour Creek

September 15, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Chum mort in Shoal creek.

Photo 2: Low water in the creek.

Estuary Survey

- 9 jumpers, 1 salmon mort, and seal eating salmon
- Salmon adjacent species: 5 seals, 75 gulls

River Notes

- Low water in the creek due to lack of rain.
- Water was very dark so difficult to count coho in the pool at the back of segment 3.

Shoal Harbour Creek

September 15, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

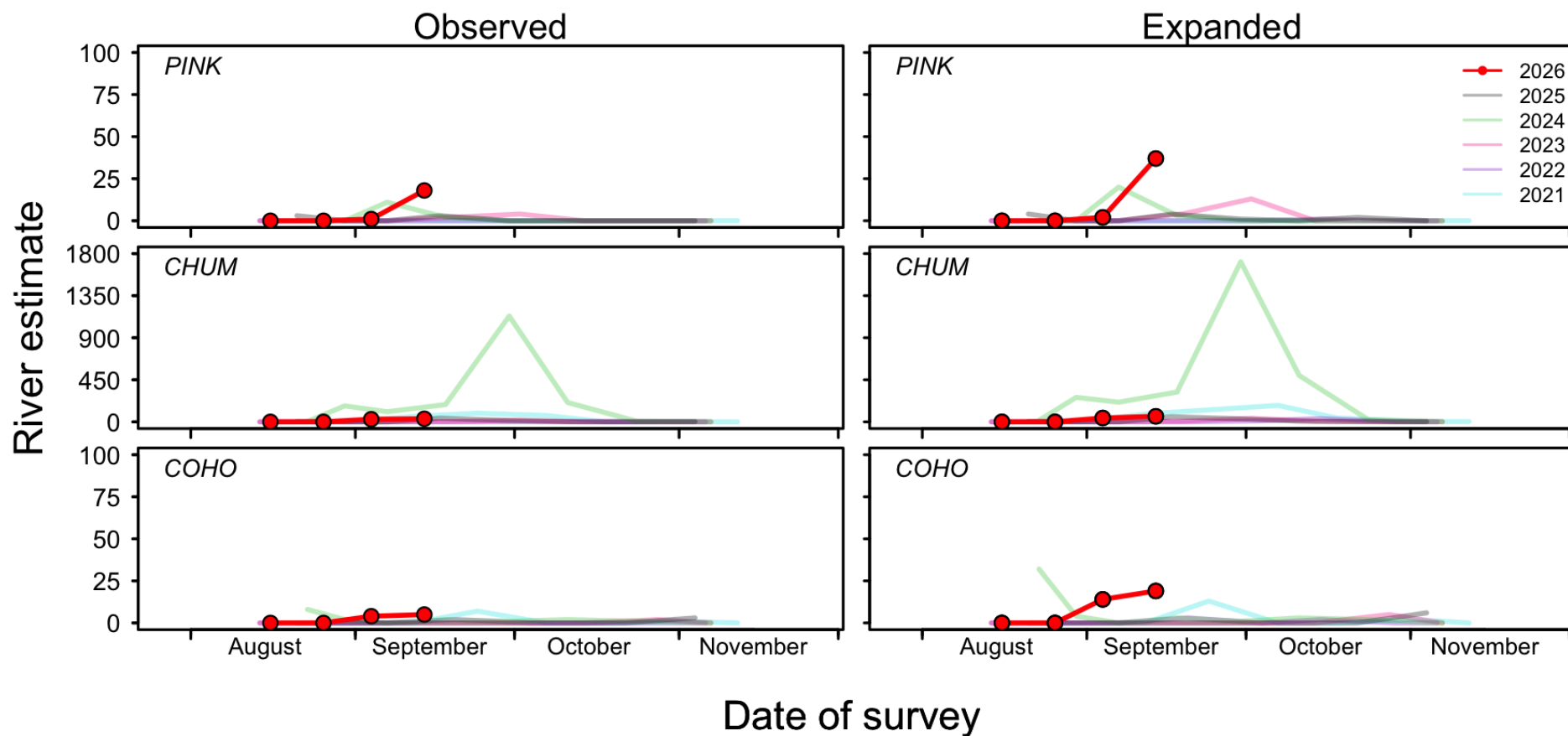


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Shoal creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Scott Cove Creek

September 15, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- No jumpers in the estuary. Likely most have gone up the river.
- Salmon adjacent species: 2 herons, 100 gulls

River Notes

- Most coho jumpers observed at waterfall #2, about 1.5km up the river mouth.

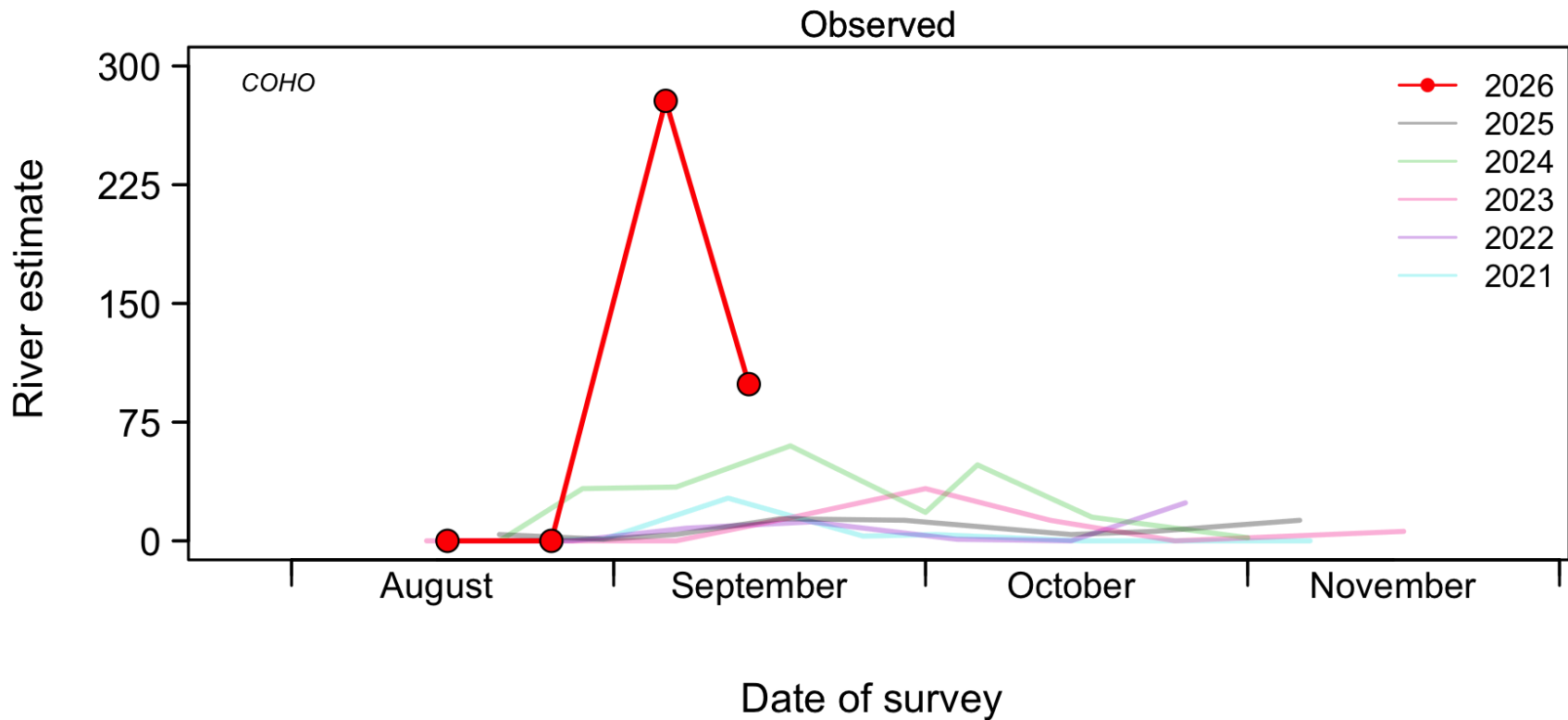


Figure: Observed waterfall counts of coho salmon in Scott Cove creek. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year.

Hada River

September 16, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Chum mort in the creek.



Photo 2: Pink and chum spawning in the creek.

Estuary Survey

- 1000+ pink, 3 jumpers
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 kingfisher, 75 gulls

River Notes

- Chum in their peak spawn, pinks just starting to spawn.
- Encountered two grizzlies in the river. One of them was fishing at the large deep holding pool in segment 2.

Hada River

September 16, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

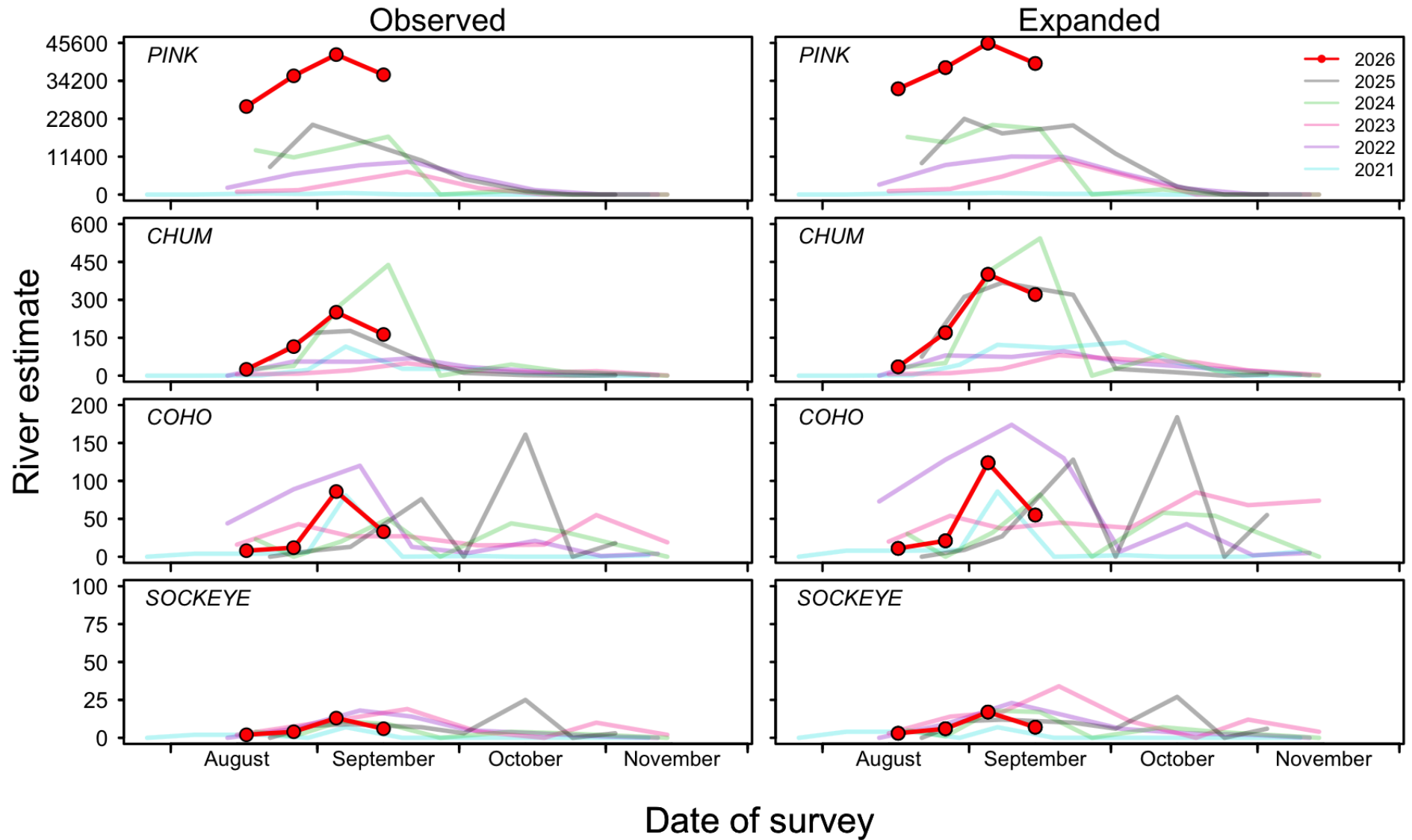


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Hada River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Wahkana Creek

September 16, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- 2 jumpers
- Salmon adjacent species: 4 mergansers

River Notes

- Observed pinks in the river!

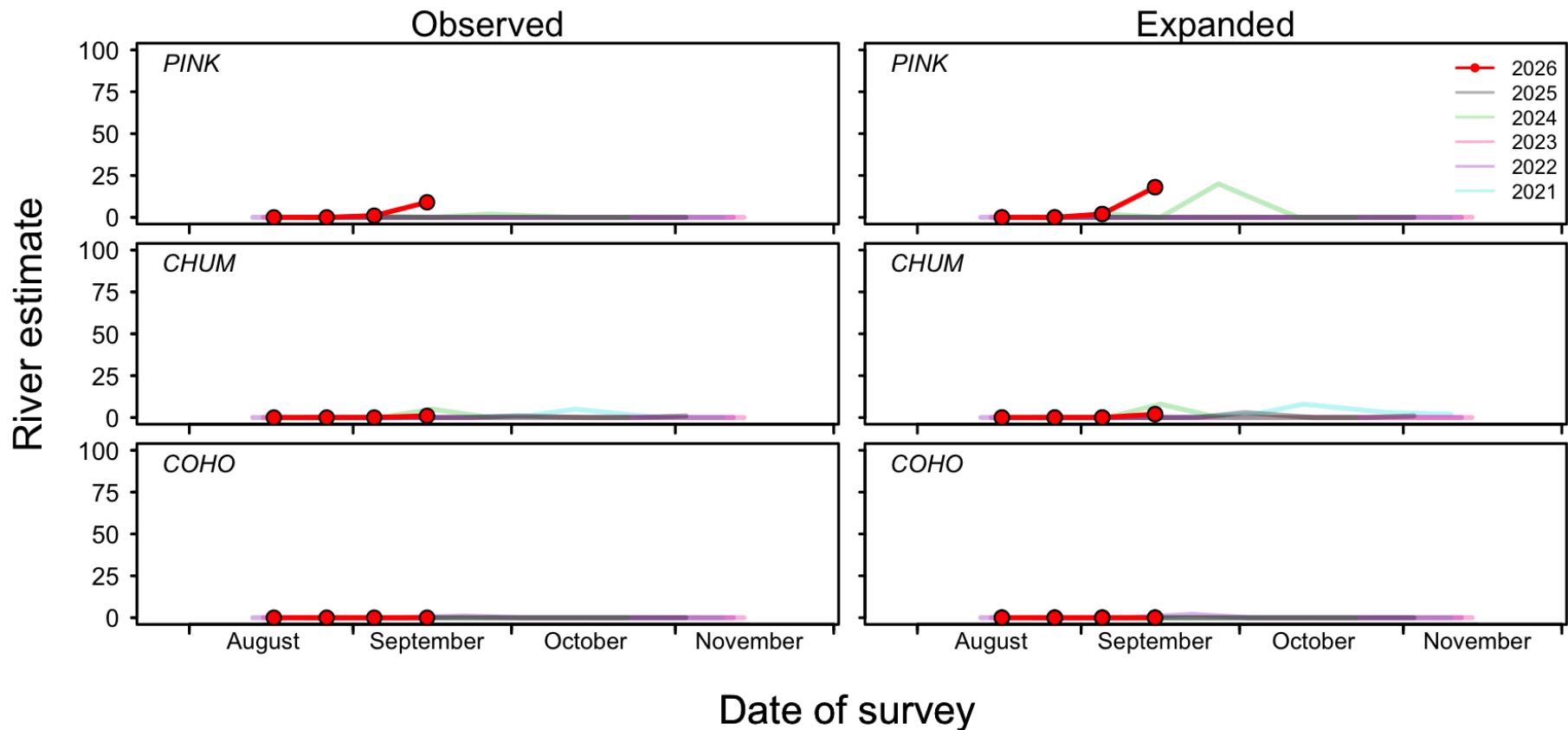


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Wahkana creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Carriden Creek

September 17, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- 100+ pink, 22 jumpers
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 heron, 3 mergansers, 1 kingfisher, 1 eagle, 1 vulture, 20 gulls

River Notes

- Continuing to see many morts in the river. Seems like most fish are not spawning, dying due to predation or getting stranded in parts of the river.

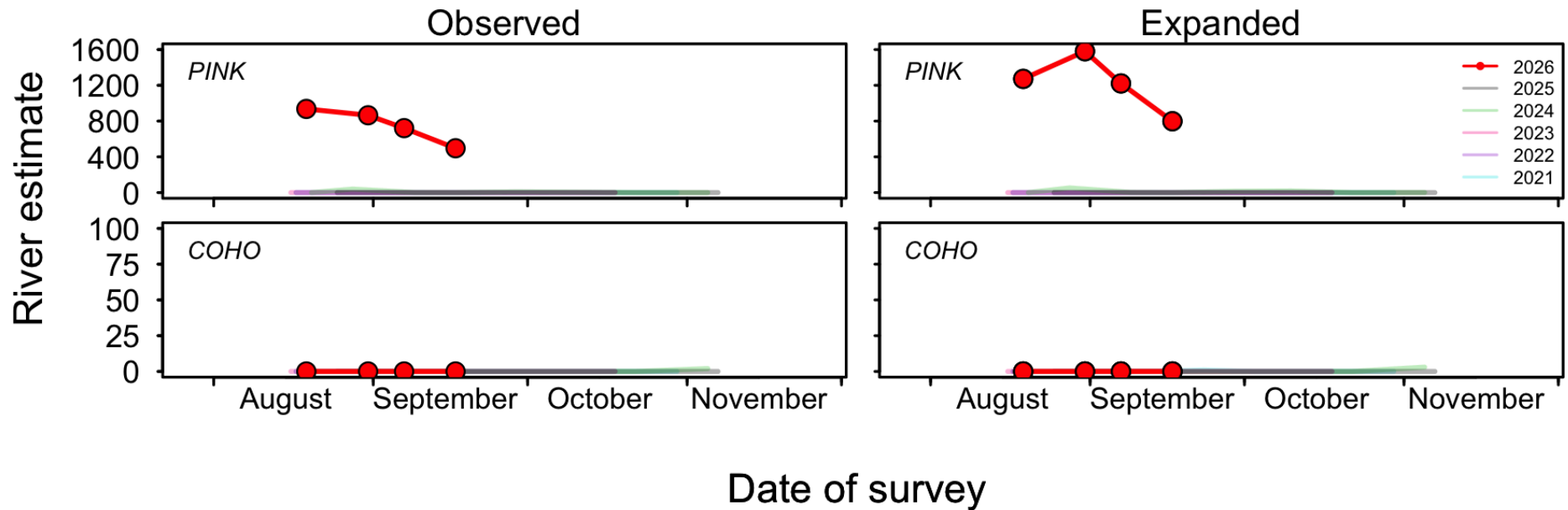


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Carriden creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Embley River

September 18, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Old bridge near the end of segment 6.

Photo 2: Pink salmon in Embley.

Estuary Survey

- 100+ pink, 9 jumpers, 1 mort
- Salmon adjacent species: 3 eagles, 1 seal, 3 mergansers, 1 heron

River Notes

- Water levels were low and water clarity was high. Good conditions for counting.
- Grizzlies present during our creek walk.
- Thousands of pink at the back of segment 6, approaching Huaskin lake. Lots of coho also present at the back. Likely thousands more pink upstream of where we turned around.

Embley River

September 18, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

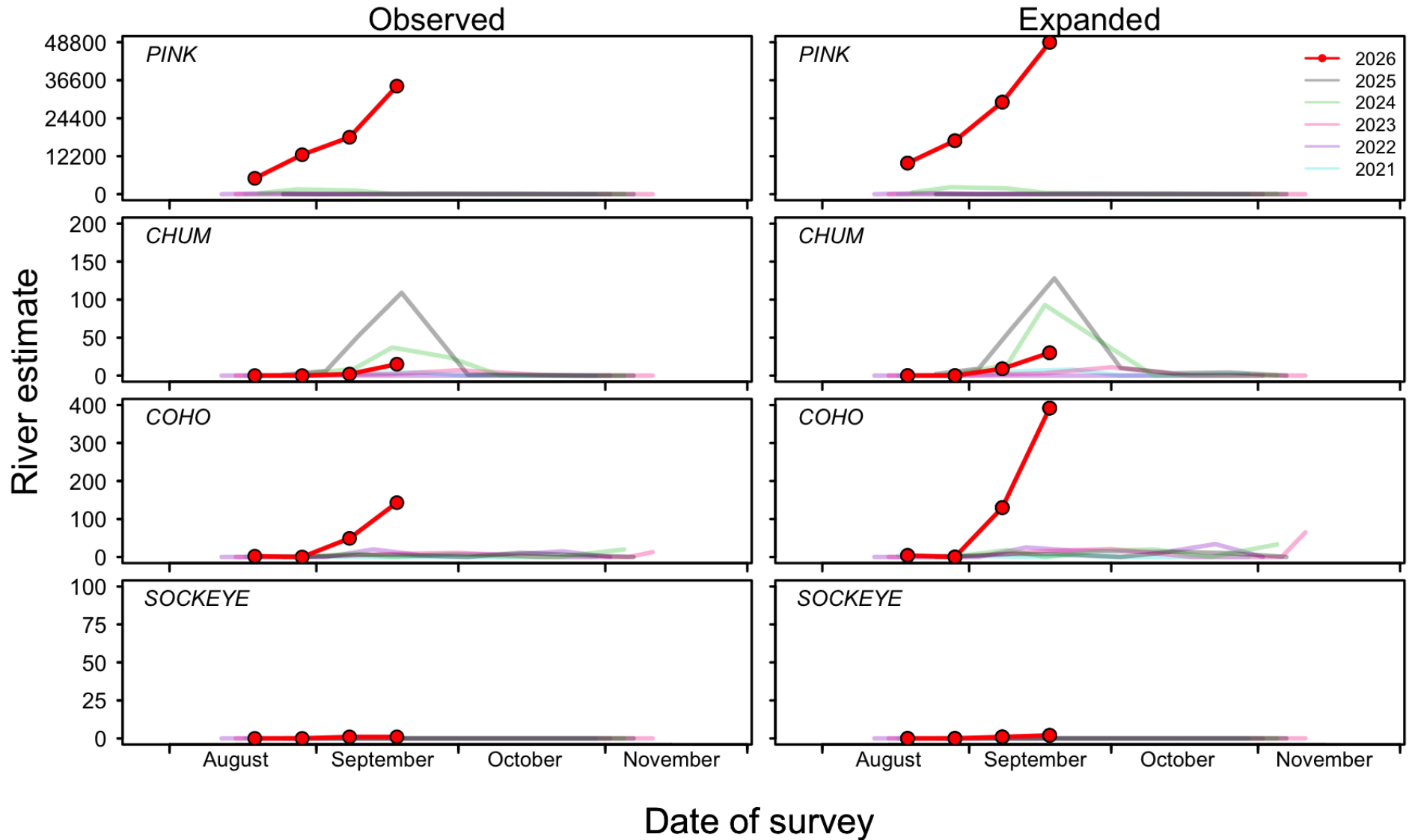


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Embley River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Viner River

September 19, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- 13 jumpers (unknown species)
- Salmon adjacent species: 4 eagles, 40 gulls

River Notes

- Low water and not many fish.

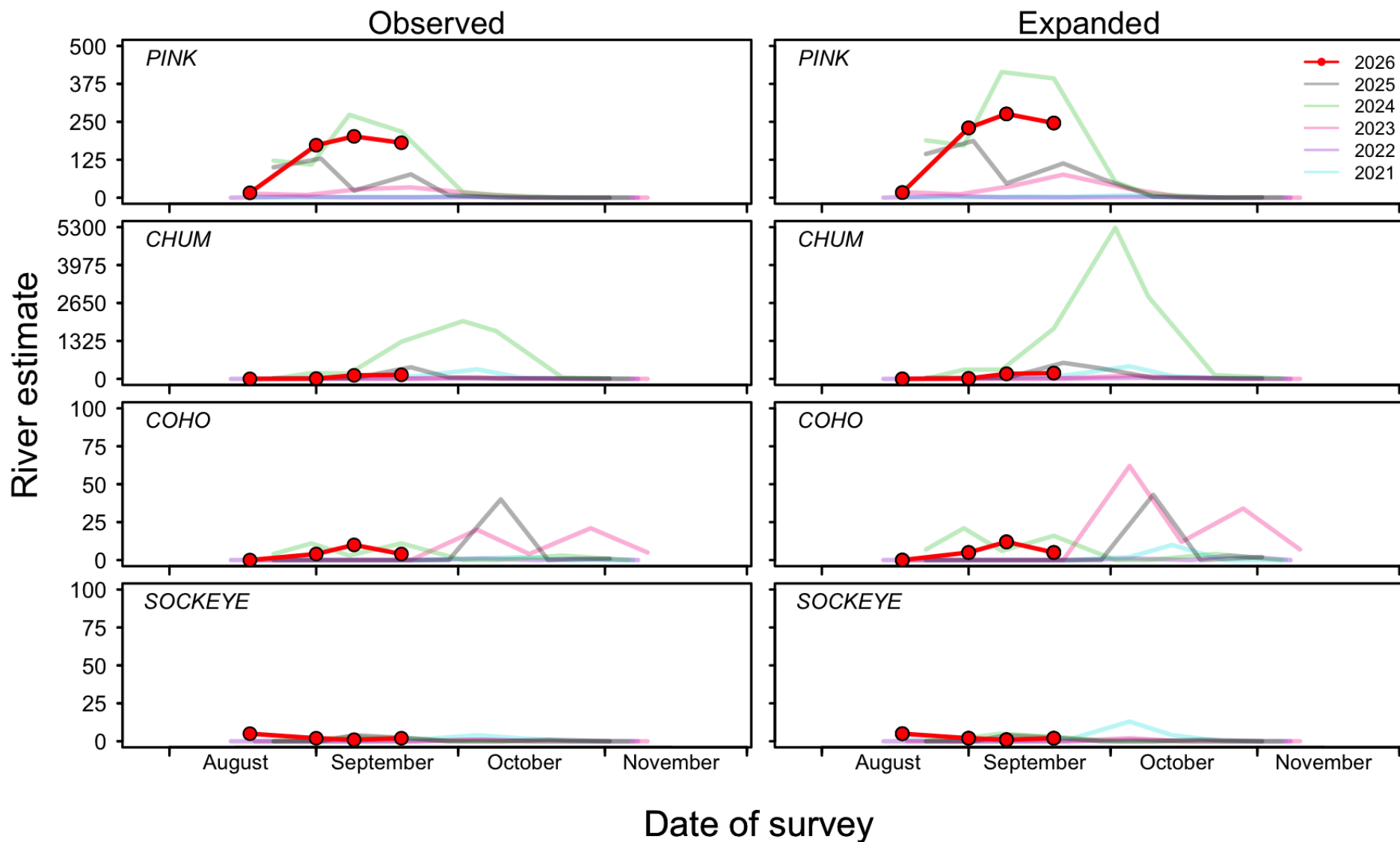


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Viner River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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