M.E.S.S.S. Report - Rotation 8

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

Enumeration Period: October 27, 2026 - November 13, 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), Minihump (MH), 20 minute estuary survey (jumpers observed / school size of salmon). pH values from litmus strips. The thermometer broke at Simoom.

Stream	Date	PK	CM	CO	JK	SK	Morts (PK/CM/CO)	20 Min (jumpers/ school size)	Air Temp	H2O Temp	pH
Shoal	Oct. 27	1 / **2**	1 / **2**	1 / **2**	0	0	1 / 0 / 0	0 / NA			
Mt. Worthington	Oct. 27	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0				
Carriden	Oct. 28	185 / **308**	0	0	0	0	329 / 0 / 0	0 / NA			
Simoom	Oct. 28	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0				
Maple	Oct. 29	0	0	2 / **4**	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	0 / NA			
Embley	Oct. 30	7814 / **20333**	0	7 / **13**	0	0	1284 / 6 / 0				
Viner	Oct. 31	0	1 / **4**	80 / **134**	1	0	0 / 734 / 1				
Hada	Nov. 1	56 / **127**	12 / **16**	158 / **277**	8	0	4002 / 54 / 0	0 / NA			
Wahkana	Nov. 1	0	0	0	0	0	0 / 5 / 0	0 / NA			
Scott	Nov. 2			4	0		0	0 / NA			
Billy Proctor	Nov. 7			12 / **16**	14		NA / NA / 0				
Billy Proctor	Nov. 13			82 / **96**	16		NA / NA / 3				

Table 2. Loose Lake watershed escapement and biosample data. Non-bold numbers represent observed salmon counts. Bold numbers represent estimates factoring in observer efficiency. Abbreviations: Coho (CO), Jacks (JK), Sockeye (SK). All sockeye observed in this system are minihumps.

Stream	Date	CO	JK	SK (Minihump)	Morts (CO/SK)	Air Temp	H2O Temp	pH
Minihump Creek	Nov. 10	23 / **115**	2	202 / **1010**	0 / 1			
Connector	Nov. 10	14 / **20**	2	0	0			
Chris Bennett	Nov. 10	31 / **41**	2	0	2 / 0			
Loose	Nov. 10	51 / **128**	1	0	1 / 0			
John Lewis	Nov. 08	NA	NA	NA				

2. Rotation Highlights

Weather:

- Consistent but light rainfall

Water Levels/Quality:

- Water levels have been higher than in past weeks.

Visibility:

- Adequate

Notes:

- Still seeing lots of pink salmon in Embley creek--all spawning.
- Largest observed coho count for the Loose Lake system and Billy Proctor creek in the MESSS database (2009 - 2026)
- Pink and chum salmon runs have more or less ended in Hada, Carriden, Viner, Shoal, and Wahkana.
- Walked John Lewis creek but the water was too high to count salmon.

Shoal Harbour Creek

October 27, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- Nothing spotted

River Notes

- Dark and deep water--difficult to survey.
- One coho salmon spotted swimming upstream in segment 1.

Billy Proctor Creek & Mount Worthington Creek - Shoal tributaries

November 7 and 13, 2026 & October 27, 2026

River Notes

- Observed 12 coho and 16 jacks on the first visit to BP creek. 82 coho and 16 jacks on the second visit to BP creek. Coho came in with heavy rainfall.
- No coho in Mt. Worthington creek.





Photo 1: Rob counting coho salmon in BP creek.
Photo 2: Coho mort in BP creek.
Photo 3: Coho spawning in BP creek.

Shoal Harbour Creek
October 27, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

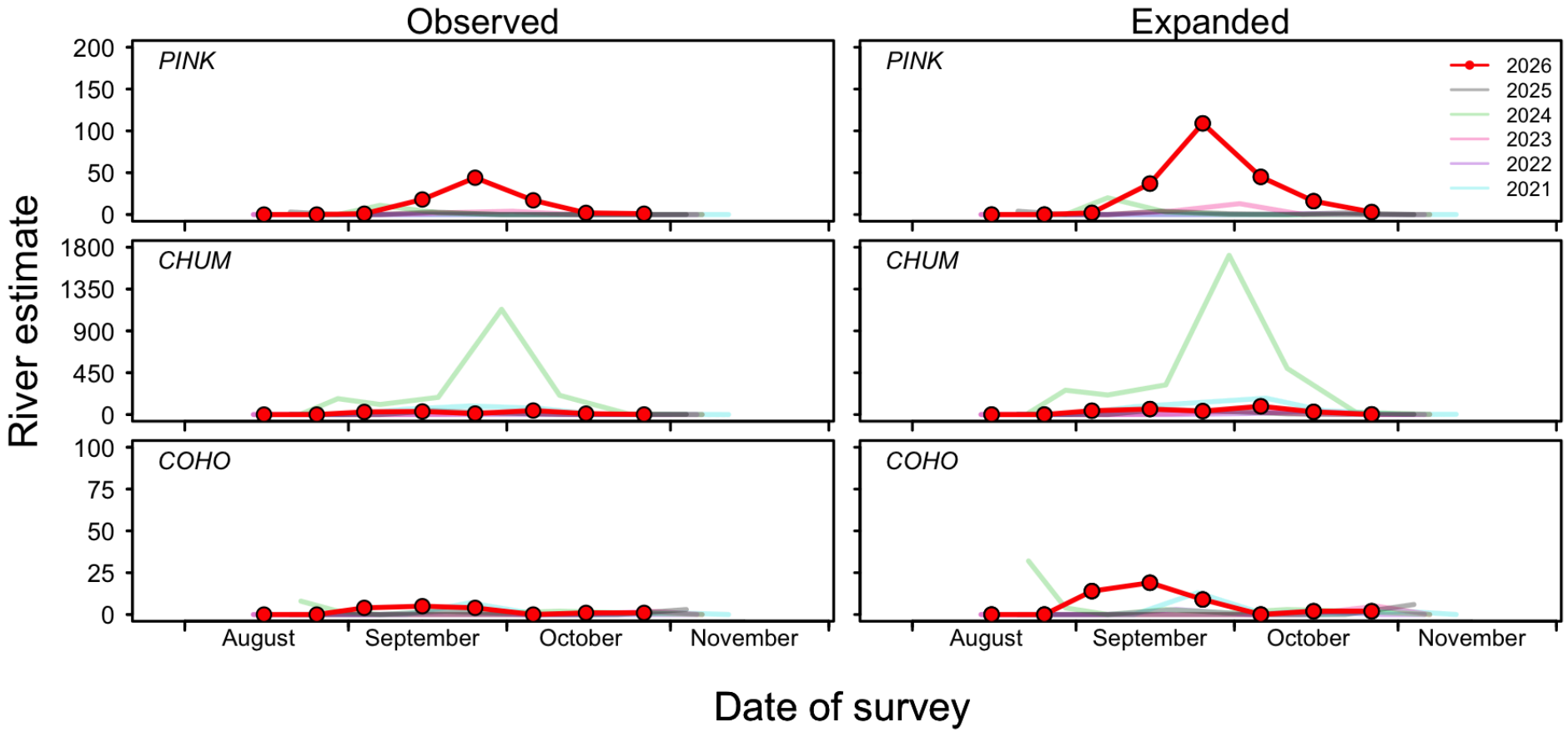


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Shoal creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Billy Proctor Creek
November 07, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

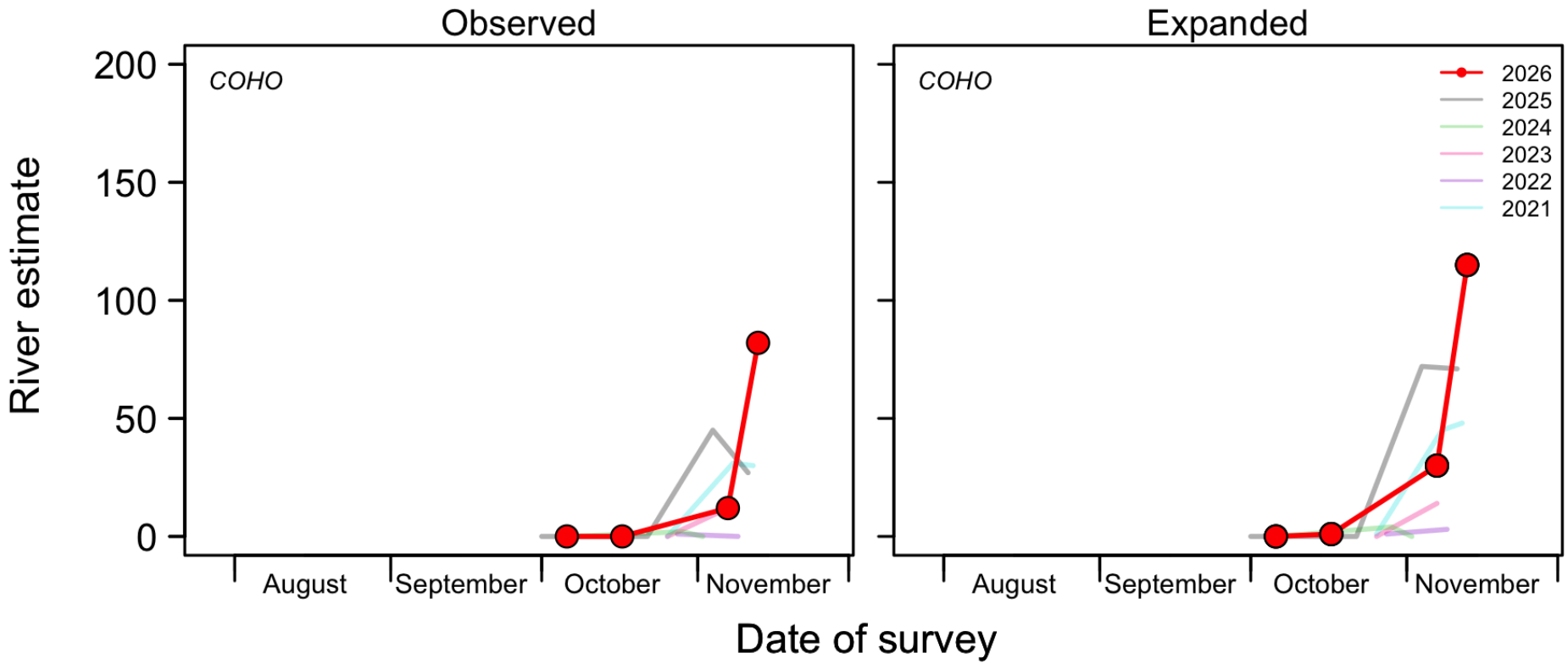


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Billy Proctor creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points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

Carriden Creek

October 28, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photos 1: Biosample pool behind big log jam at Carriden creek. Some pink salmon spawning here.

Estuary Survey

- No salmon spotted

River Notes

- Coming to the end of the pink salmon run.

Carriden Creek

October 28, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

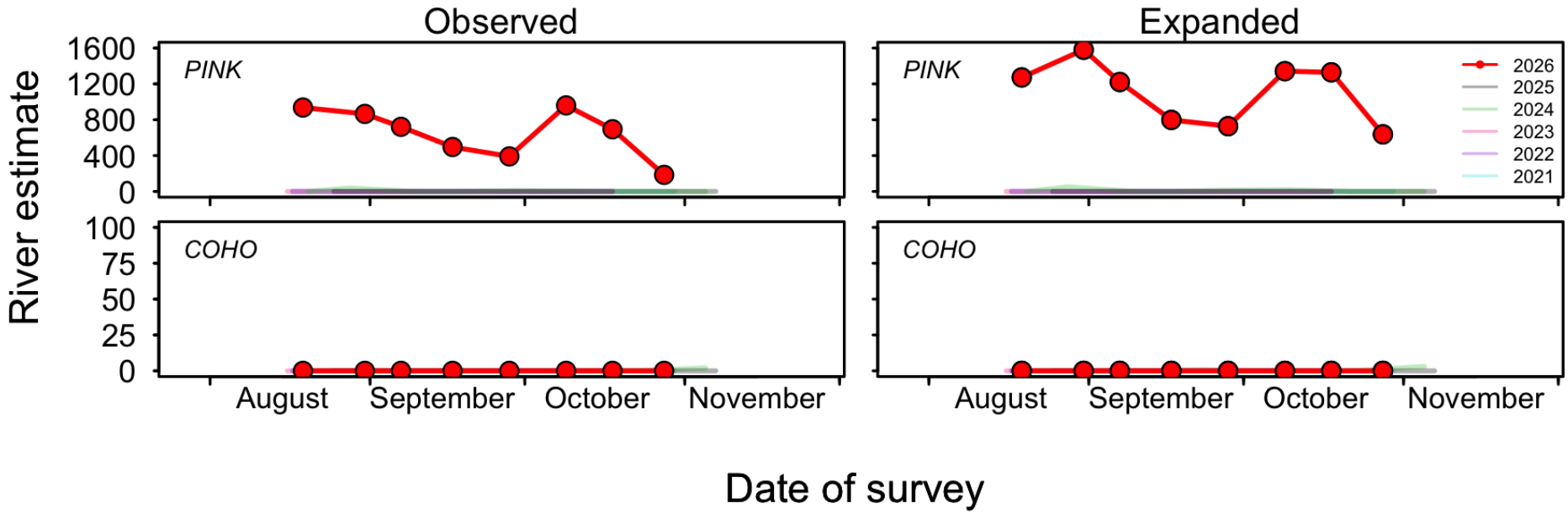


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Carriden Creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Simoom Creek

October 28, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

-no photo-

Estuary Survey

- No salmon spotted

River Notes

- No sign of fish in river
- Medium water level

Maple Cove Creek

October 29, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

- no photo -

Estuary Survey

- Salmon adjacent species: 15 gulls

River Notes

- 2 coho spotted in the river.
- Pink salmon run completed--no fish spotted.

Maple Cove Creek

October 29, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

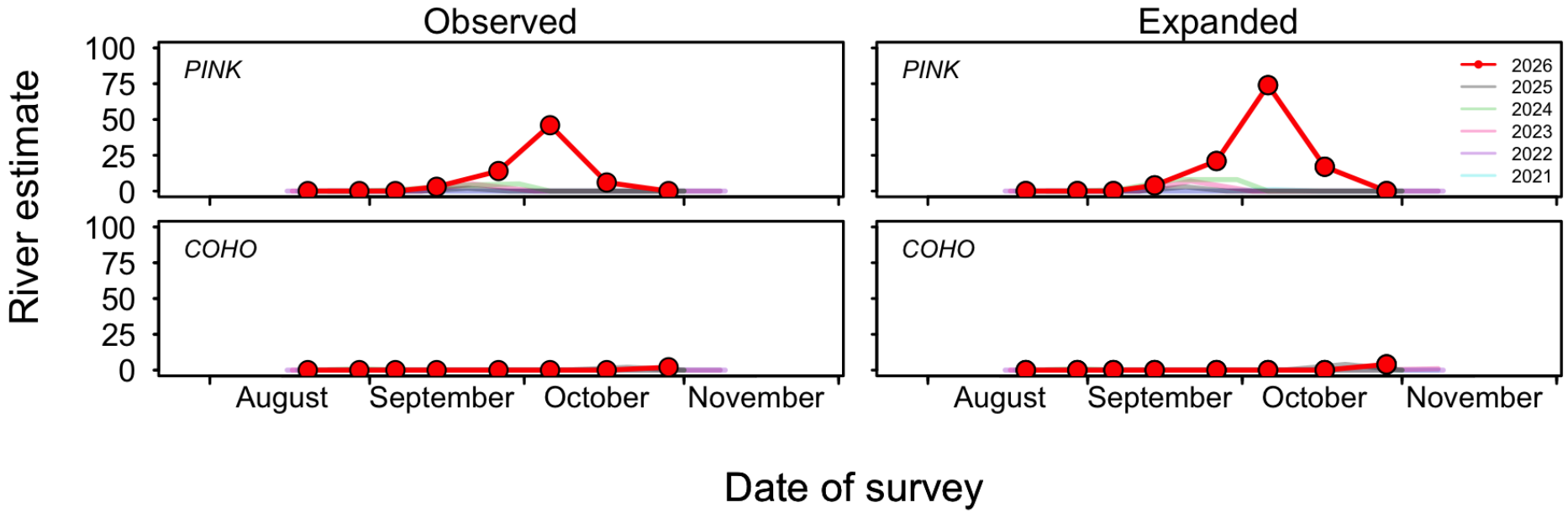


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Maple Cove creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are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

Embley River

October 30, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel





Photo 1: Pink salmon spawning on hand-placed gravel.
Photo 2: Spawning pink salmon in segment 6.
Photo 3: High water in cascades section (segment 5).

Estuary Survey

- Salmon adjacent species: 30 geese, 1 kingfisher, 40 ducks, 2 eagles.

River Notes

- Many pink salmon spawning on hand-placed gravel in segment 3, right below cascades.
- Most fish were spawning in the upper reaches of the river (segment 6).
- Lots of pink salmon have also moved into segment 4 (a side stream) to spawn. Previously did not see many fish in this section.
- Turned around halfway through segment 6 due to encountering 3 adult grizzly bears at once in the river.
    - As a result, likely missed out on counting thousands of pink salmon upstream.
    - Could not get a reliable count of coho salmon either (which are mostly located at the end of segment 6).

Embley River

October 30, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

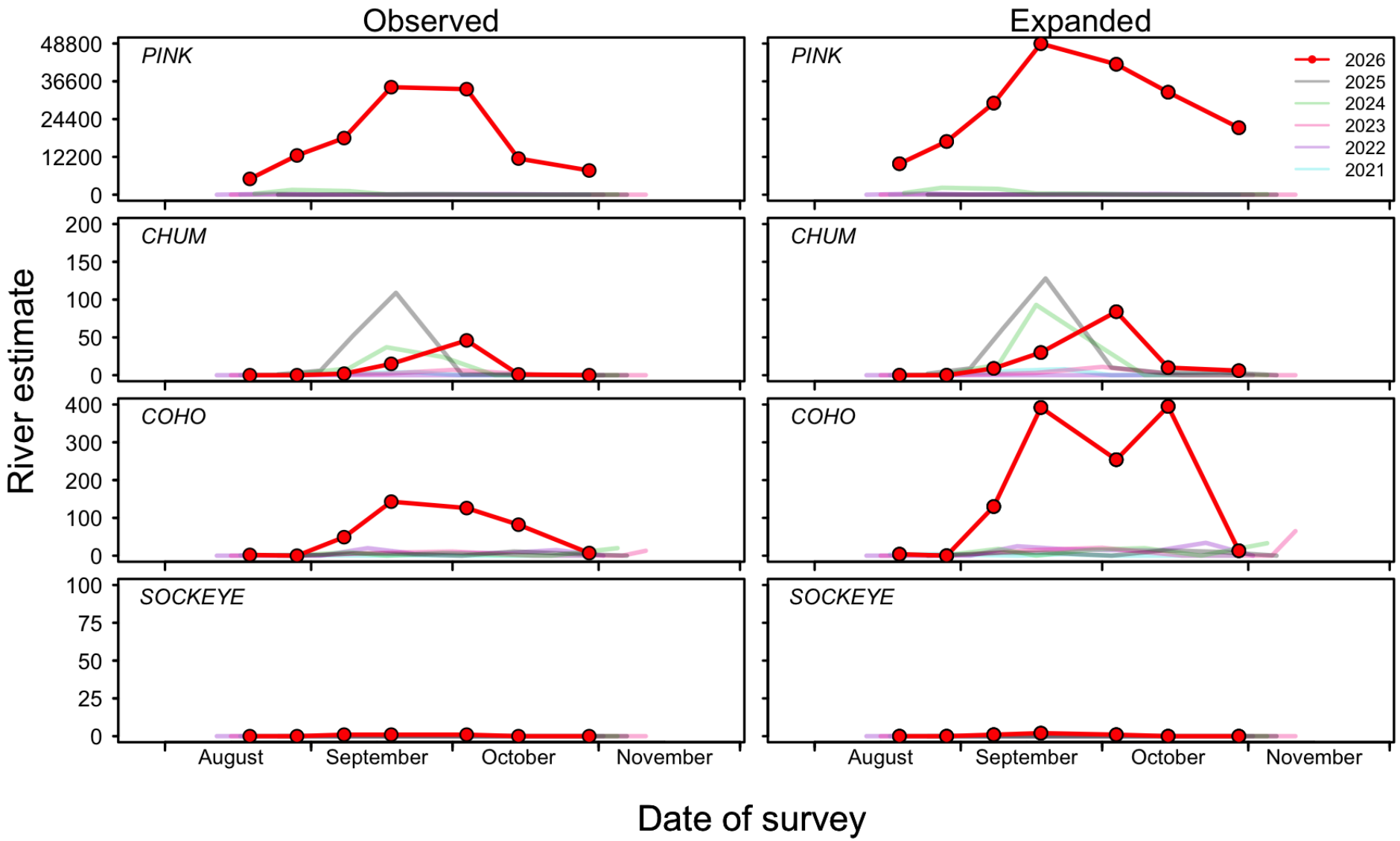


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Embley River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year. Note the different y-axis scales for each species.
***Embley surveyed only 7 times due to high water.**

Viner River

October 31, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Large school of coho salmon obscured by glare in deep pool section.

Estuary Survey

- No live salmon spotted

River Notes

- Lots of chum morts in river. Just 1 live chum observed.
- Seeing lots of coho past the rapids section of Viner River. Most of them are holding in deep pool near the end of segment 2.
- Medium water level

Viner River

October 31, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

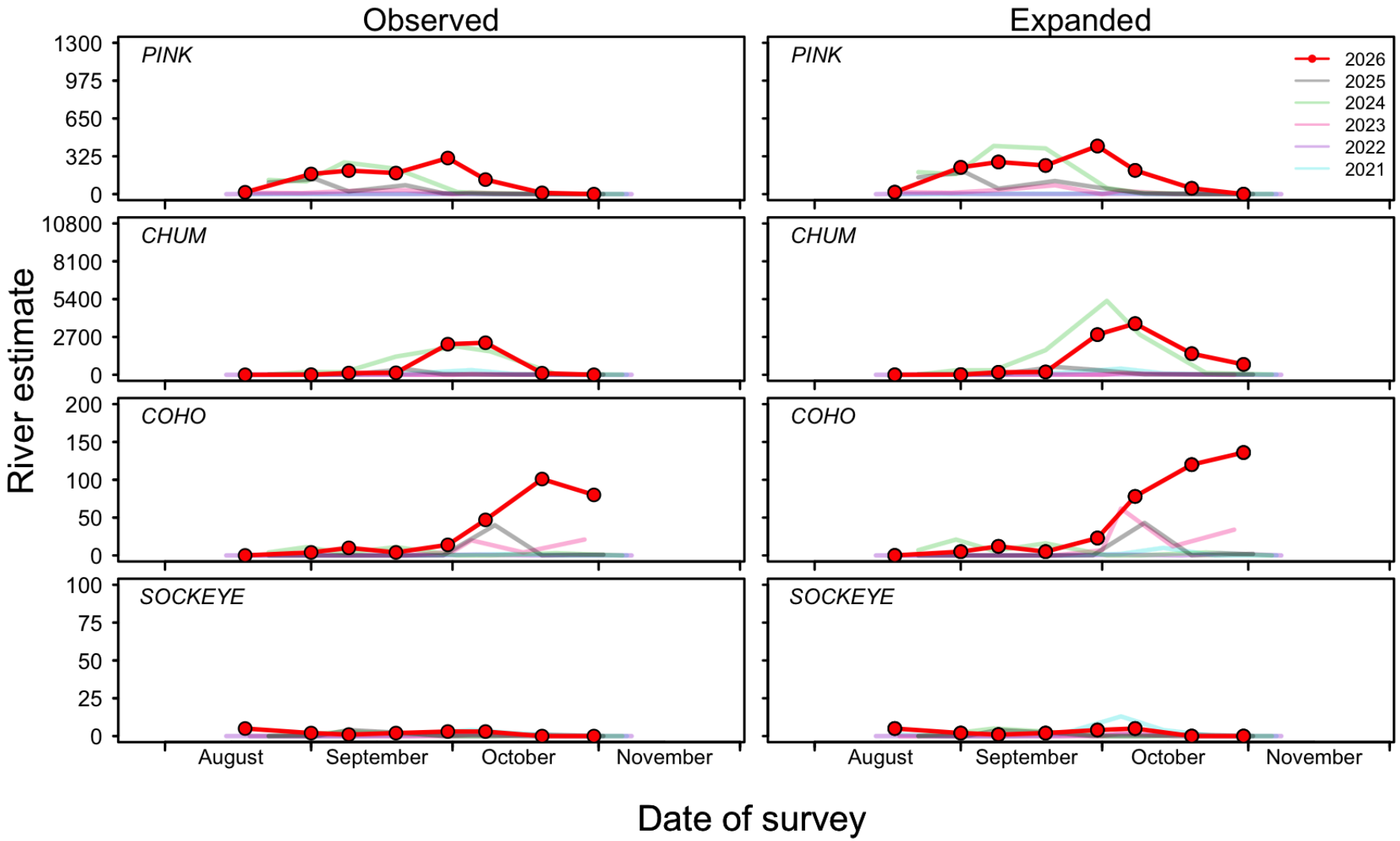


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Viner River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Hada River

November 01, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Coho salmon in Hada river.

Estuary Survey

- No live salmon spotted

River Notes

- End of pink salmon run.
- Coho schooled by the waterfall and deep pool

Hada River

November 01, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

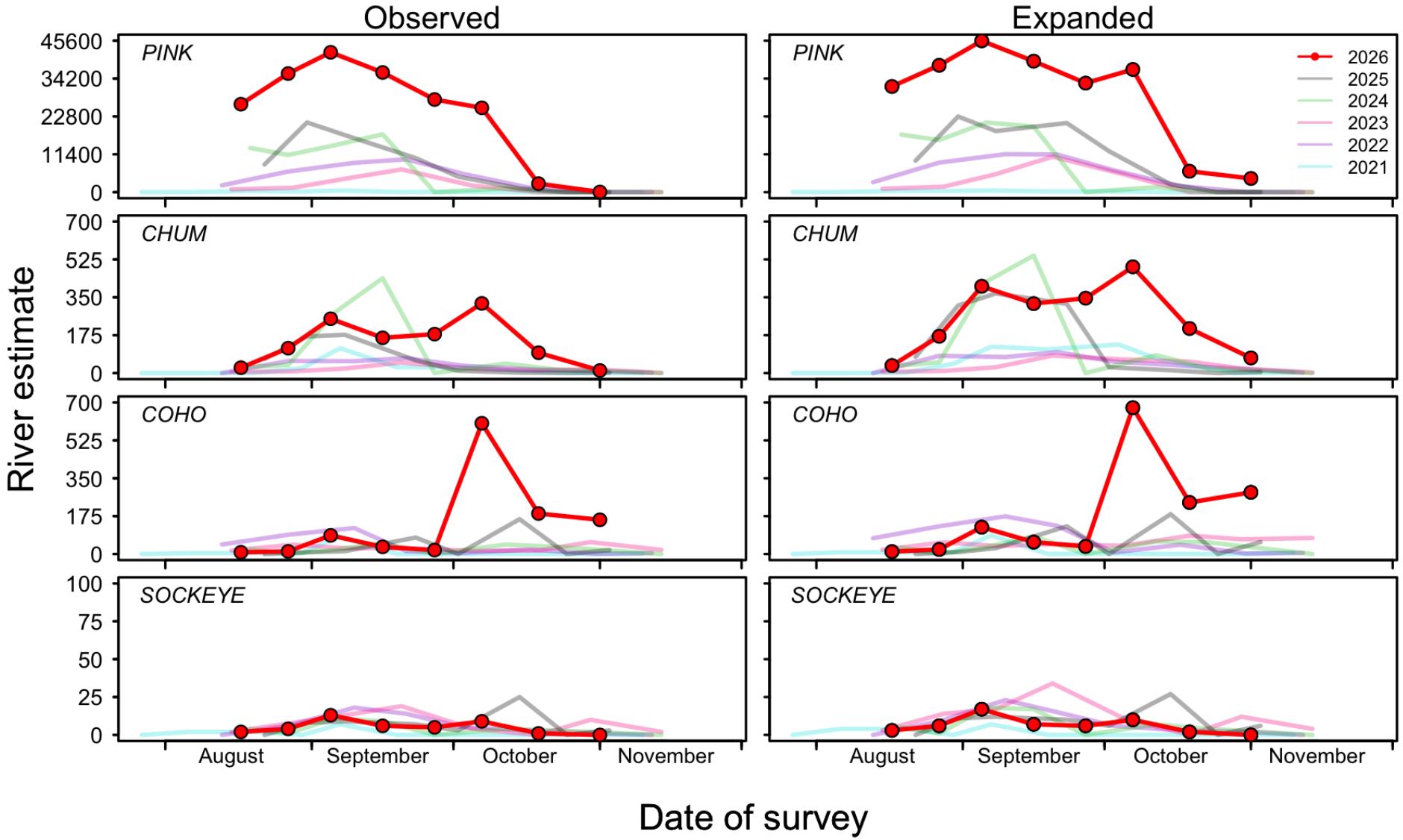


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Hada River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Wahkana Creek

November 01, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel




Photos 1: Chum mort
Photo 2: Dead chum eggs

Estuary Survey

- No salmon
- Salmon adjacent species: none.

River Notes

- No live fish spotted in the river.
- Medium water level and good water clarity for Wahkana

Wahkana Creek

November 01, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

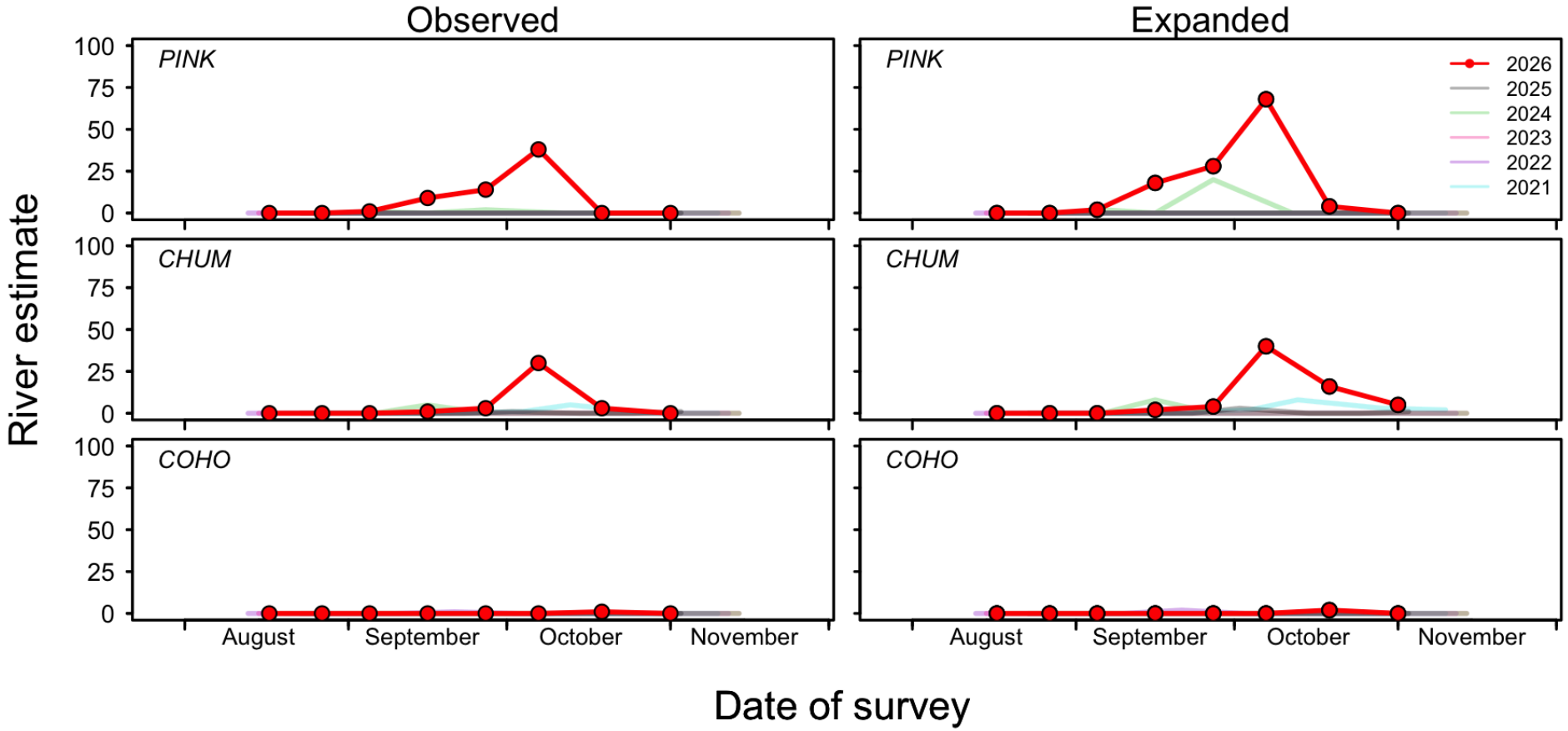


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Wahkana Creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Scott Cove Creek

November 02, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- Salmon adjacent species: none.

River Notes

- Medium water levels
- Not many salmon jumping at the waterfalls. Holding in Loose lake.

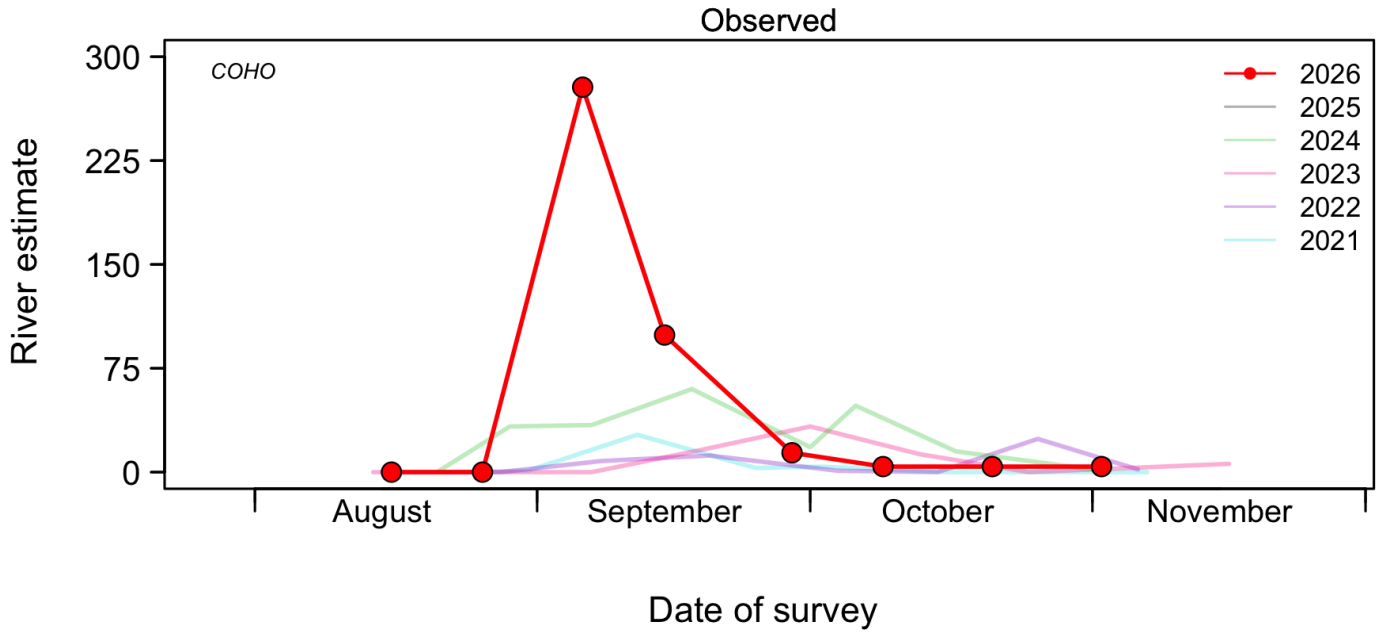


Figure: Observed counts of coho salmon from waterfall counts in Scott Cove creek. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year.

John Lewis Creek

November 08, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: River was flooded. We bankwalked the creek but conditions made it uncountable.

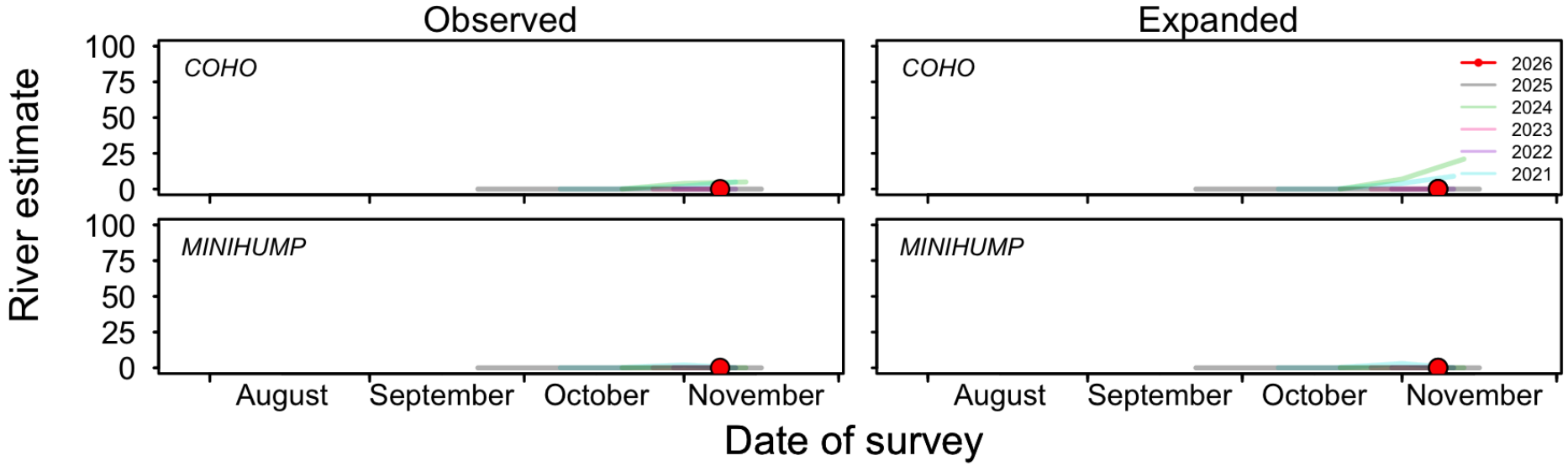
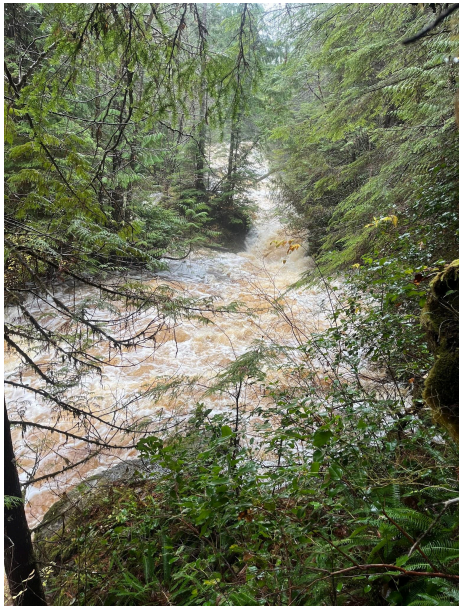


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in John Lewis creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are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

Loose Creek

November 10, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photos 1-3: Coho salmon in Loose creek.
Photo 4: Flooded creek two days before the survey.

River Notes

- Coho likely entered the creek with high rainfall in the two days prior to our survey.
- Some very dark/deep sections made it impossible to count (e.g., closer to the lake).
- Most coho we counted were in the Loose creek side stream. Spawning all the way up to the road above the creek.

Loose Creek

November 10, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

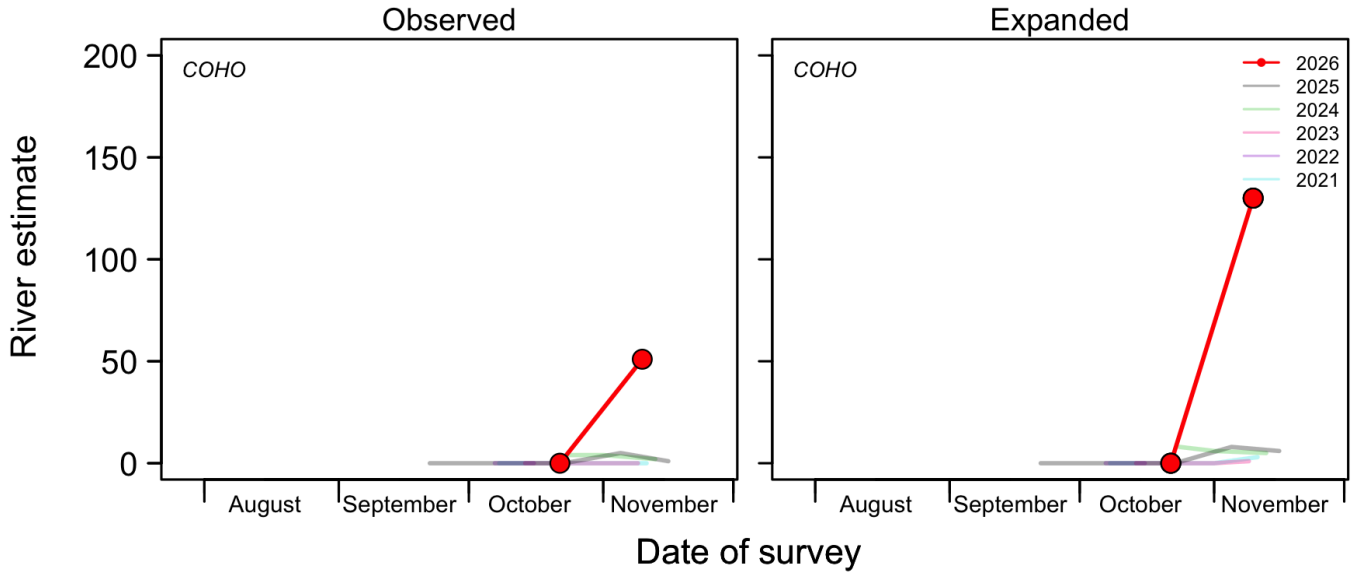


Figure: First column shows observed counts of coho salmon in Loose creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Chris Bennett Creek

November 10, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo: Coho salmon spawning in Chris Bennett creek.

River Notes

- Coho likely entered the creek with high rainfall in the two days prior to our survey.
- Mostly located in the middle stretch.

Chris Bennett Creek

November 10, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

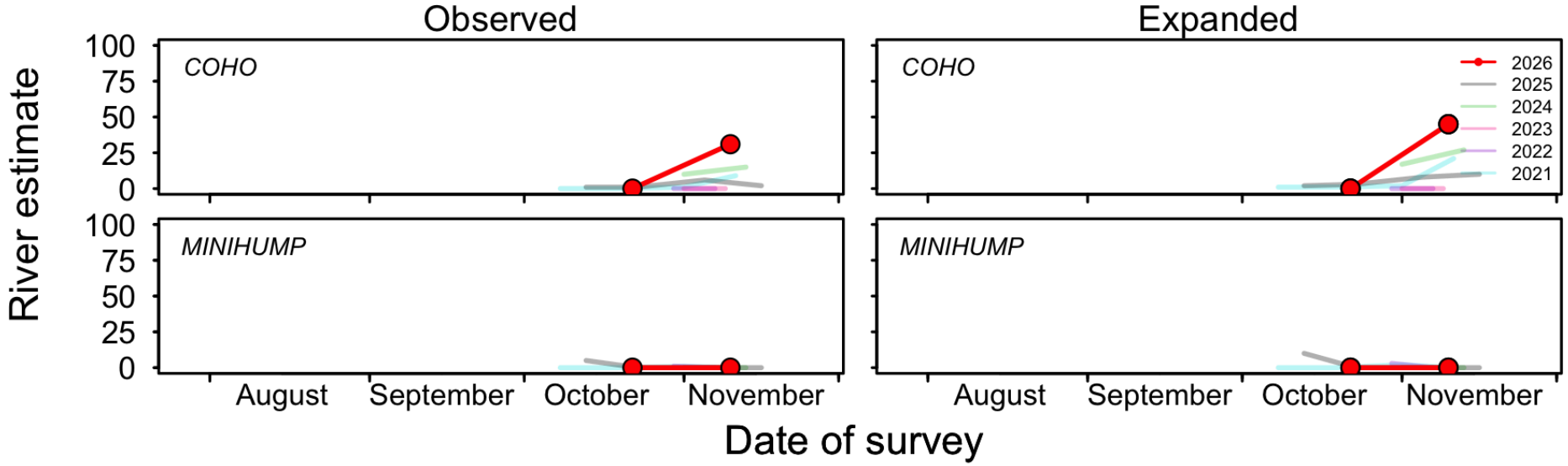
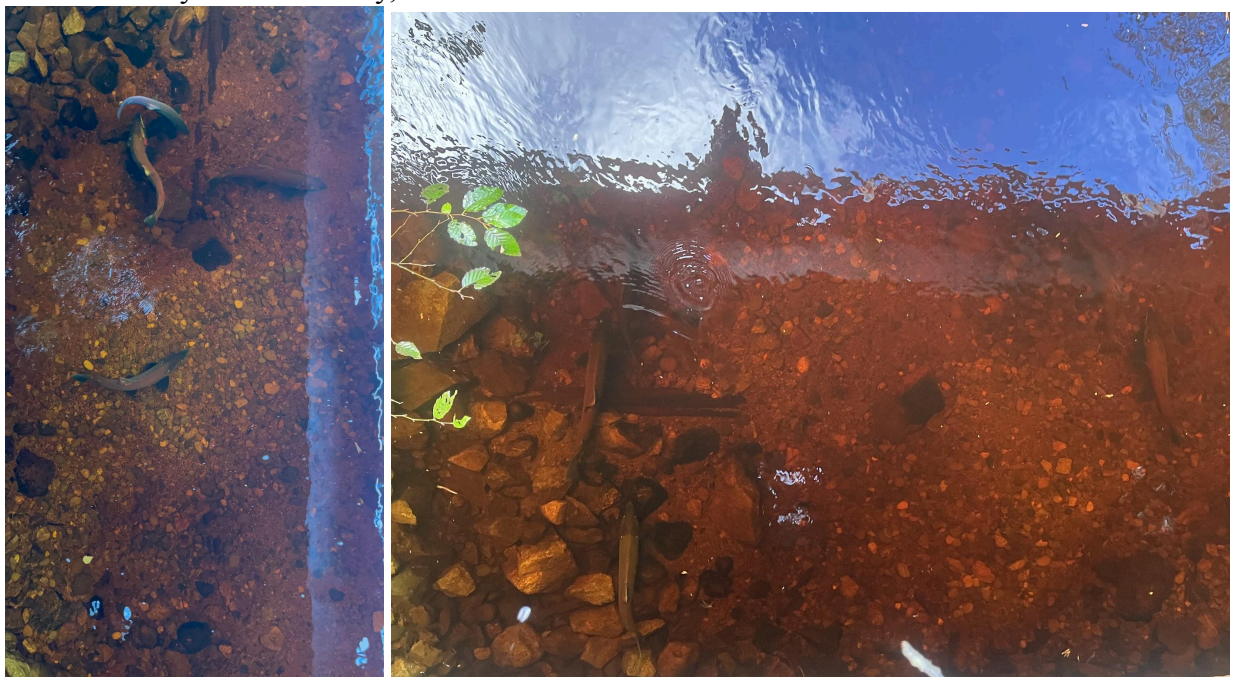


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Chris Bennett creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points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

Minihump Creek

November 10, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photos 1 and 2: Coho salmon spawning under the bridge on hand placed gravel.

River Notes

- 12 coho and 2 jacks spotted spawning on hand-placed gravel under the bridge.
- Water was very dark and high due to heavy rainfall. We could not get a reliable count of coho.

Minihump Creek

November 10, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

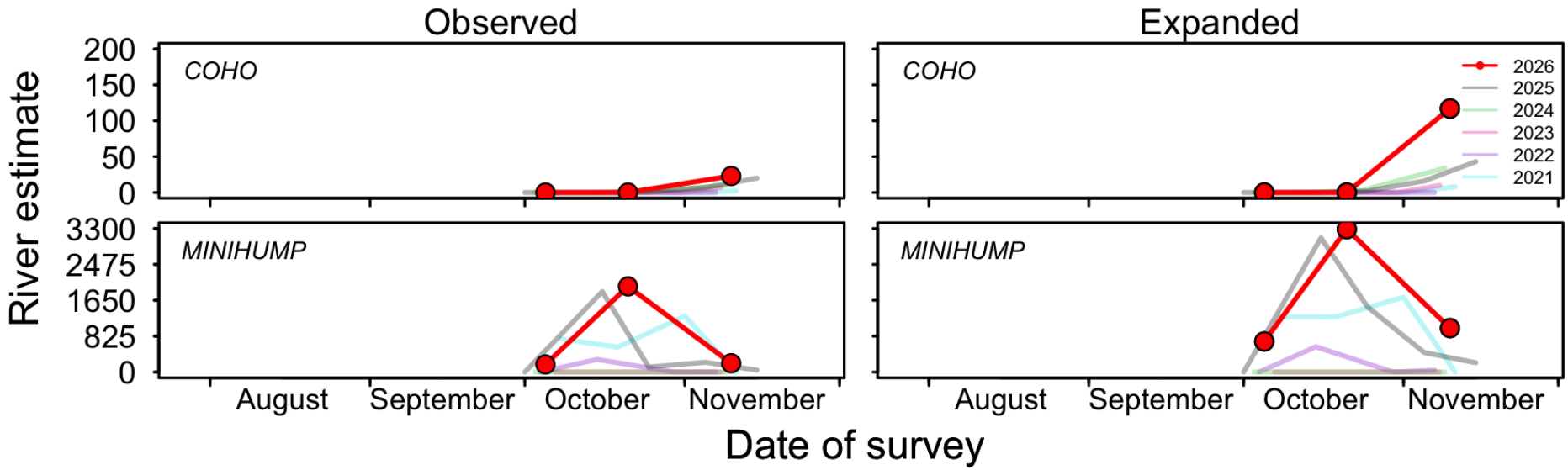


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Minihump creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Connector Creek

November 10, 2026
Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

- No photo -

River Notes

- High and dark water in parts of the creek limited observer efficiency/

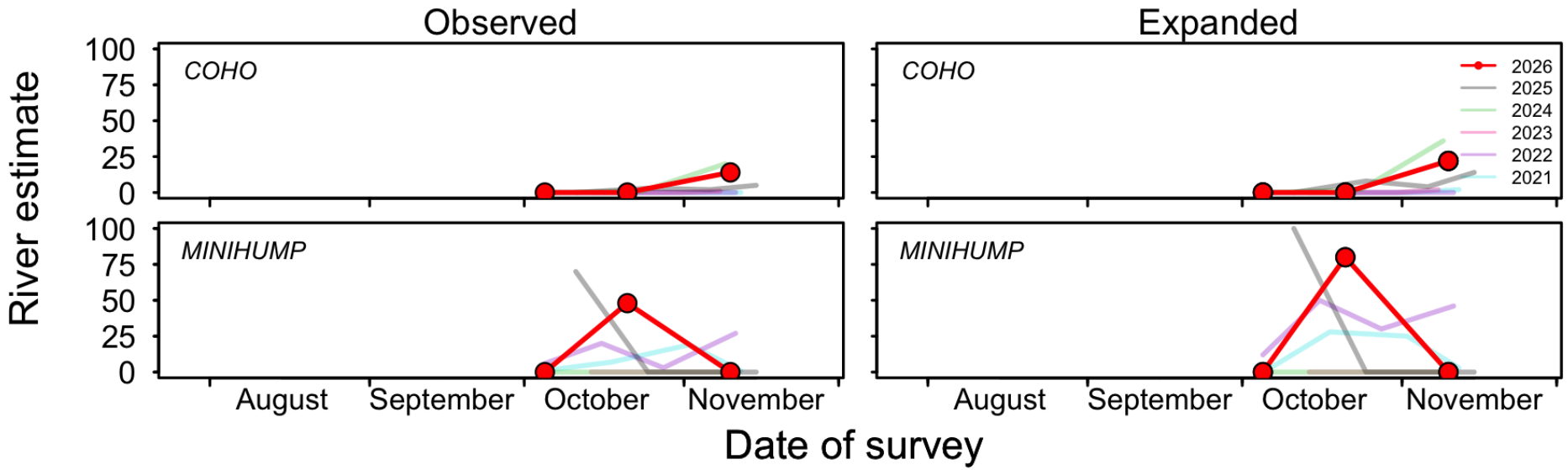


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Connector creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are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