

M.E.S.S.S. Report - Rotation 5
Mainland Enhancement of Salmonoid Species Society
DFO Area 12 Stock Assessment 2026

Enumeration Period: September 25, 2026 - September 30, 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. 25	44 / 81	11 / 25	4 / 8	0	0	28 / 12 / 0	0 / 100+	15.6	12.6		
Maple	Sept. 26	14 / 19	0	0	0	0	2 / 0 / 0	0 / NA	14.3	10.9		
Wahkana	Sept. 27	14 / 28	3 / 4	0	0	0	0 / 0 / 0	8 / NA	16.3	10.0		
Hada	Sept. 27	27884 / 29393	180 / 225	18 / 35	0	5 / 6	3422 / 121 / 0	2 / NA	16.4	11.7		
Carriden	Sept. 28	391 / 521	0	0	0	0	207 / 0 / 0	0 / NA	14.2	15.0		
Embley	Sept. 29	157	NA	NA	NA	NA	13 / 0 / 0	0 / NA	13.1	12.8		
Scott	Sept. 29			14	2		1 / 0 / 0	0 / NA	13.3	15.0		
Viner	Sept. 30	310 / 388	2185 / 2743	14 / 23	0	3 / 4	25 / 123 / 0	0 / 2	12.9	10.5		

2. Rotation Highlights

Weather:

- Heavy rainfall halfway through the rotation (starting on Sept. 28).

Water Levels/Quality:

- Water levels rose in Carriden, Embley, and Viner after heavy rain.

Visibility:

- Visibility has been adequate to good across all rivers, with the exception of Embley.

Notes:

- Could not count Embley this rotation due to poor visibility. We plan on re-visiting once conditions allow for counting.

Shoal Harbour Creek

September 25, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photos 1 and 2: Chum morts in Shoal creek.

Estuary Survey

- 100+ school of pink in the estuary
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 kingfisher, 1 eagle, 100 gulls

River Notes

- Saw pink in all segments of the creek.
- Water levels continue to be low. Dark water makes it difficult to count coho.

Shoal Harbour Creek

September 25, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

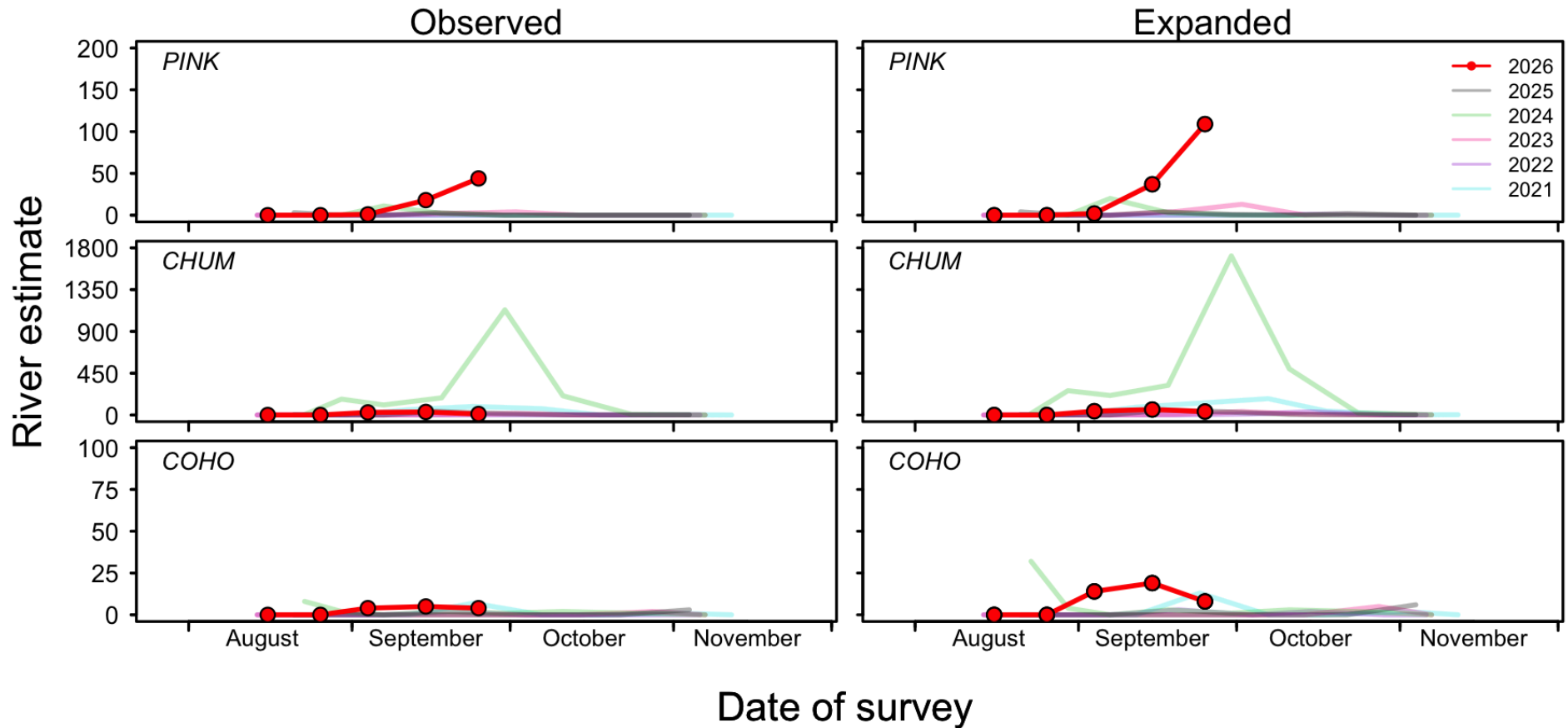


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Shoal creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Maple Cove Creek

September 26, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Low water in Maple Cove.

Estuary Survey

- No fish observed in the estuary.
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 kingfisher, 10 geese

River Notes

- Pink observed in the first 2 segments of the river. Most observed in segment 1.
- Low water in the river.

Maple Cove Creek

September 26, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

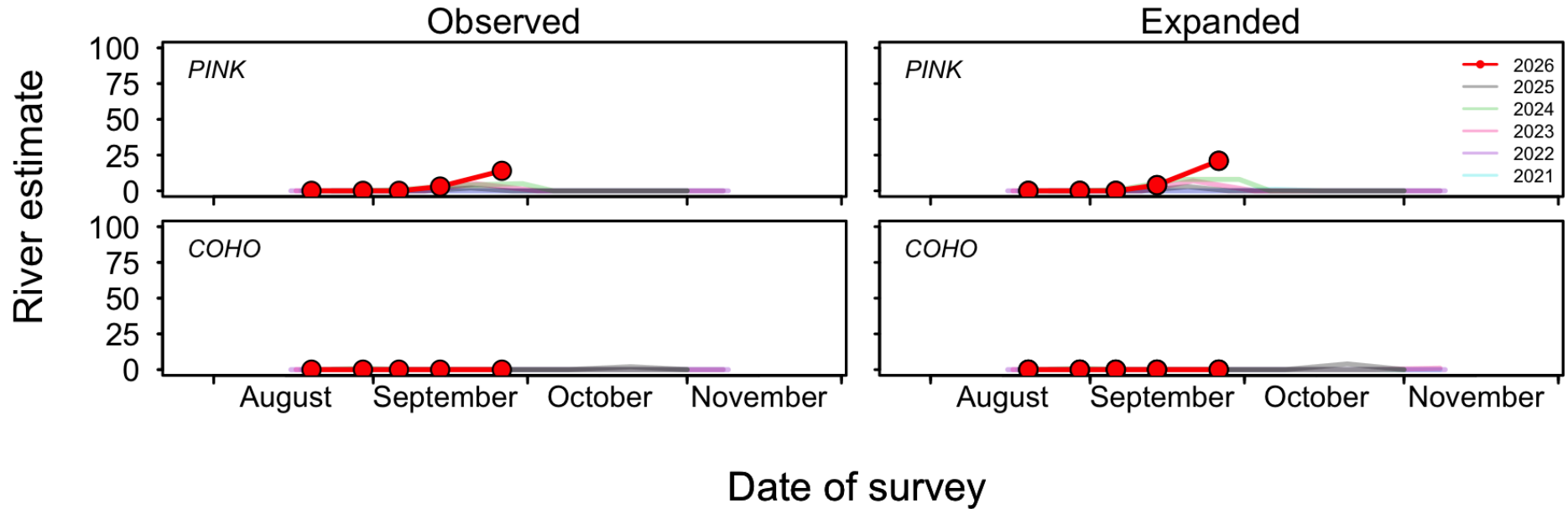


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Maple Cove creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are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

Wahkana Creek

September 27, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

Estuary Survey

- 8 jumpers
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 kingfisher

River Notes

- Observed pink and chum in the river, all in segment 1.

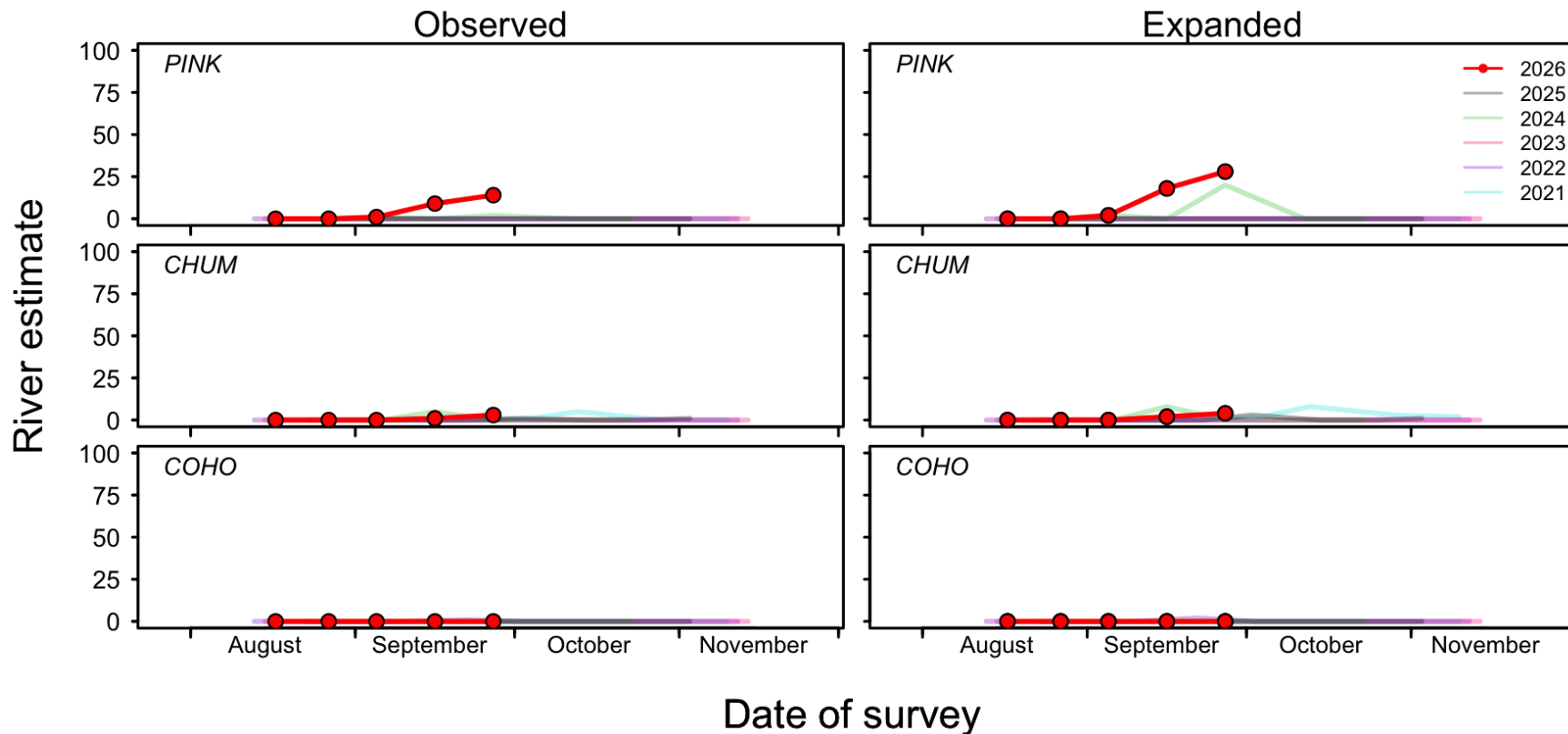


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Wahkana creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Hada River

September 27, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Spawning pink salmon.

Photo 2: Pink and chum morts and salmon eggs.

Estuary Survey

- 2 jumpers, 1000+ salmon in the estuary
- Salmon adjacent species: 1 heron, 10 mergansers, 75 gulls

River Notes

- About 90% of pink and chum are currently spawning. Coho are still in deep holding pools.
- Observed 1 chinook!
- Many morts observed throughout the river.
- Some fish are still entering the river at the estuary.

Hada River

September 27, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

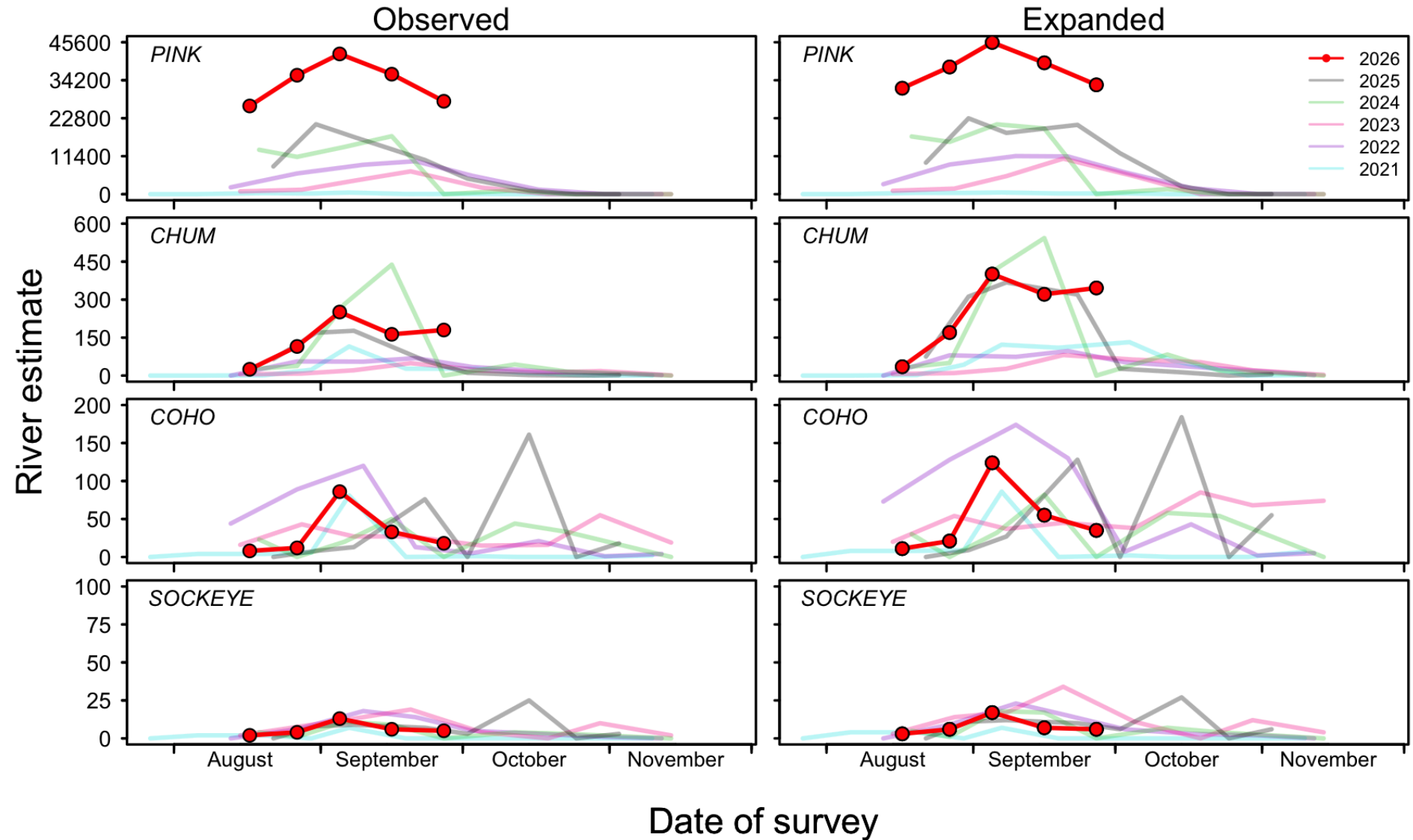


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Hada River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Carriden Creek

September 28, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Pink mort.

Photo 2: Pinks under a log.

Estuary Survey

- 2 pink morts
- Salmon adjacent species: 2 seals, 15 gulls

River Notes

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

Carriden Creek

September 28, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

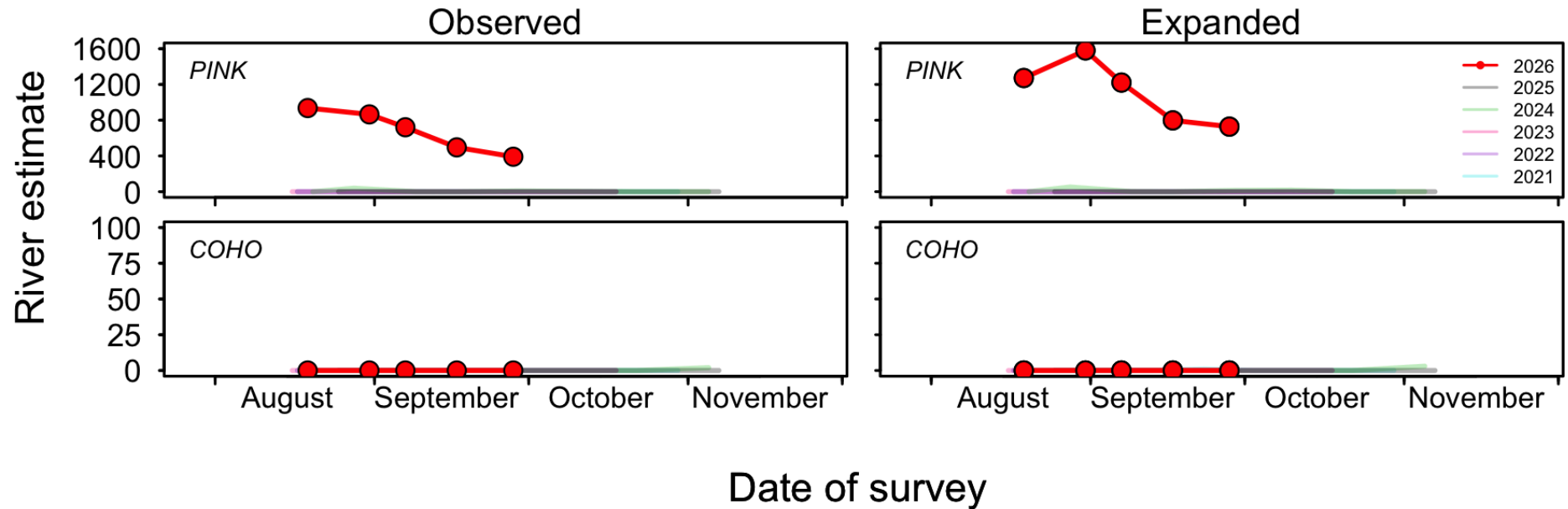


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Carriden creek. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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

Embley River

September 29, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Dark water in segment 1 of Embley.

Estuary Survey

- 1 salmon
- Salmon adjacent species: Grizzly mom + 2 cubs, 2 eagles, 50 gulls

River Notes

- Extremely dark and tannic water after rainfall--could not count fish. Counted 157 pinks in segment 1, but we know from previous weeks that there are likely thousands of fish in this stretch.

Embley River

September 29, 2026

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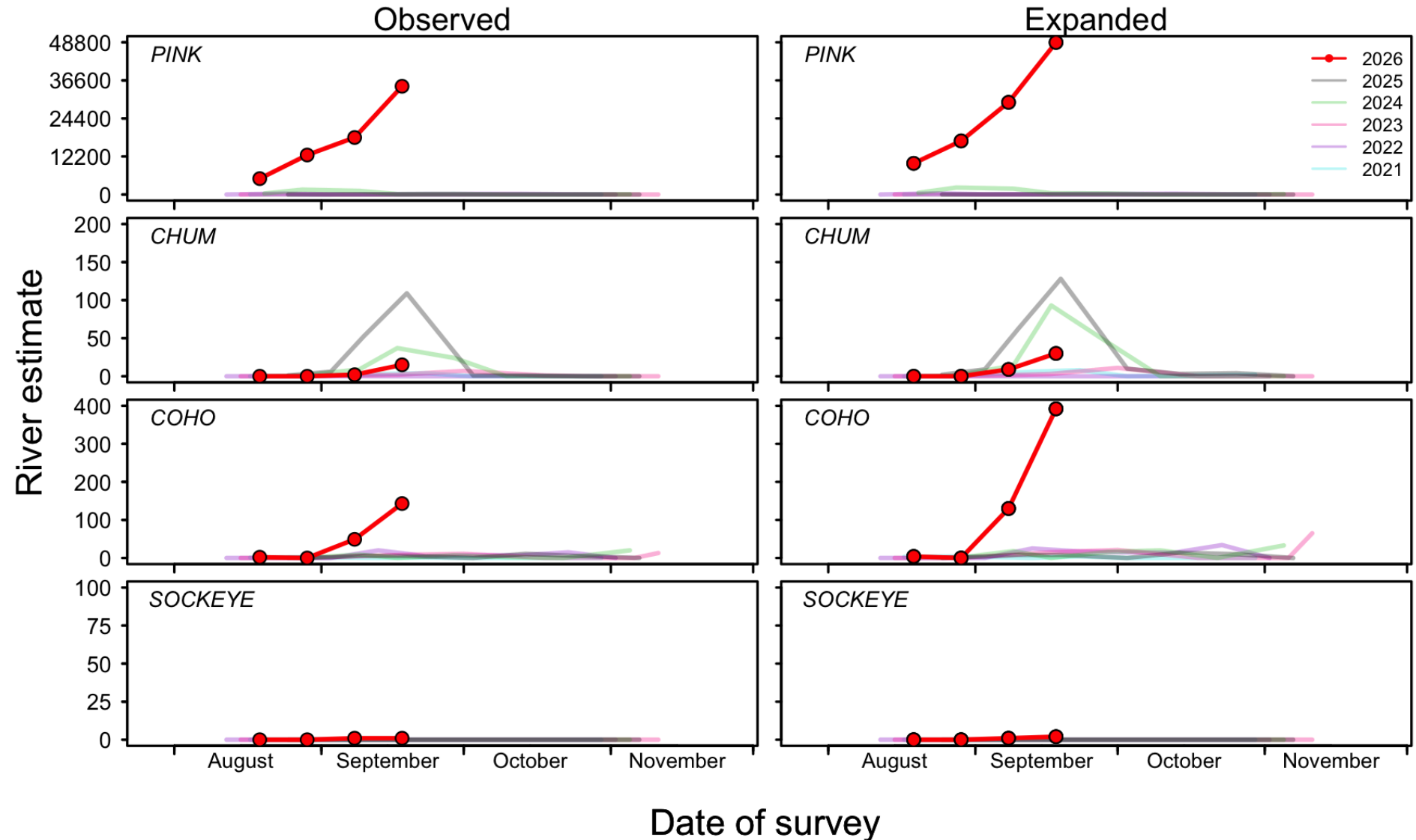


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Embley River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the **red data points are observations up to rotation 4 of this year, as we could not survey Embley for rotation 5 due to dark water.** Note the different y-axis scales for each species.

Scott Cove Creek

September 29, 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 kingfisher, 2 ravens, 114 gulls

River Notes

- Slightly higher water levels after rainfall.
- Not many salmon jumping at the waterfalls. Most may have made it to Loose Lake at this point. Will start counting Loose tributaries next rotation.

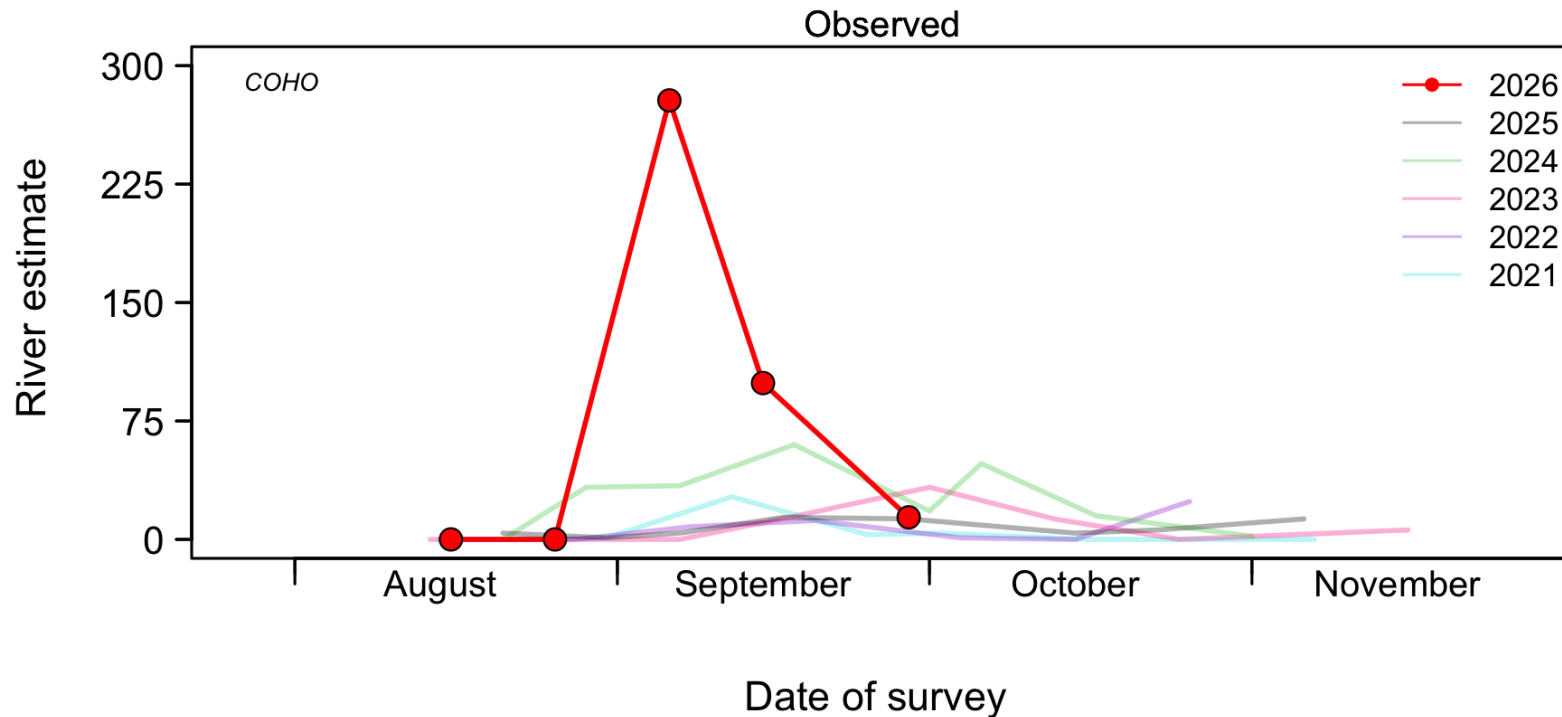


Figure: Observed waterfall counts of coho salmon in Scott Cove creek. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations up to date from this year.

Viner River

September 30, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel



Photo 1: Chum mort in Viner estuary.

Photo 2: Chum spawning in Viner.

Estuary Survey

- 2 live chum in the estuary. 7 chum and 6 pink morts in the estuary.
- Salmon adjacent species: kingfisher, seal

River Notes

- Water levels are higher after rainfall. Chum likely came in with the rain over the last few days.
- 90% of chum spawning throughout segments 1 and 2. Some chum in segment 3.
- Visibility was adequate. Some deep / dark holding pools but water clarity across the river was generally good for counting.

Viner River

September 30, 2026

Enumerated by Rob Humenny, Leila Krichel

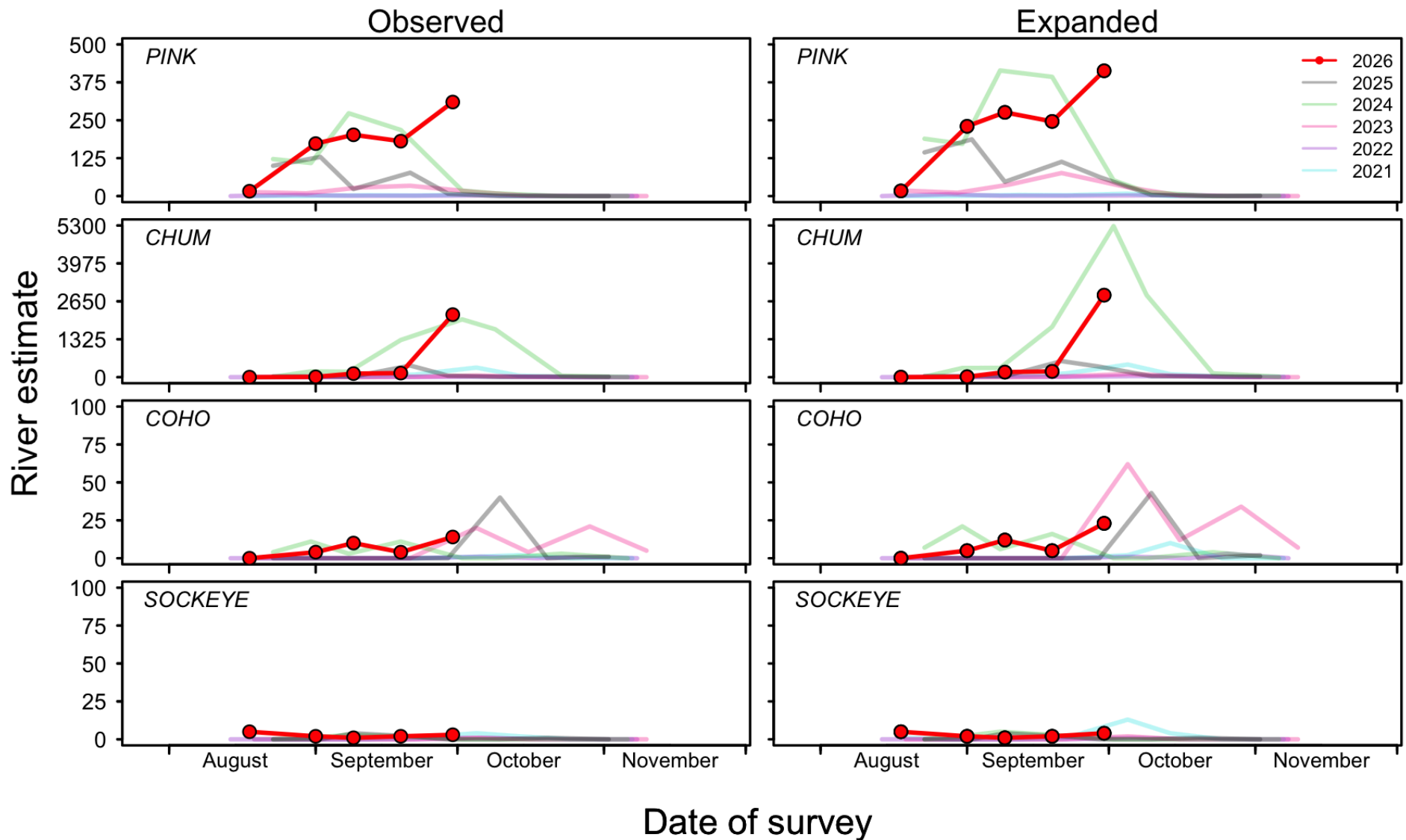


Figure: First column shows observed counts of each salmon species in Viner River. The second column shows the expanded count after accounting for observer efficiency, morts, and jacks. Coloured lines represent observations in the last five years over the entire season and the red data points are observations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