



# DFO State of the Salmon Program

## Environmental Conditions: Informing Salmon Returns in 2022



Bronwyn MacDonald, Niki Wilson & Sue Grant\*

Contact: [Sue.Grant@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Sue.Grant@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

### Salmon Outlook

Photo: 4 Element Photos  
S. Kalyn





# Global Temperatures

# 1880-2021\*: Global Land & Ocean Temperature Anomalies

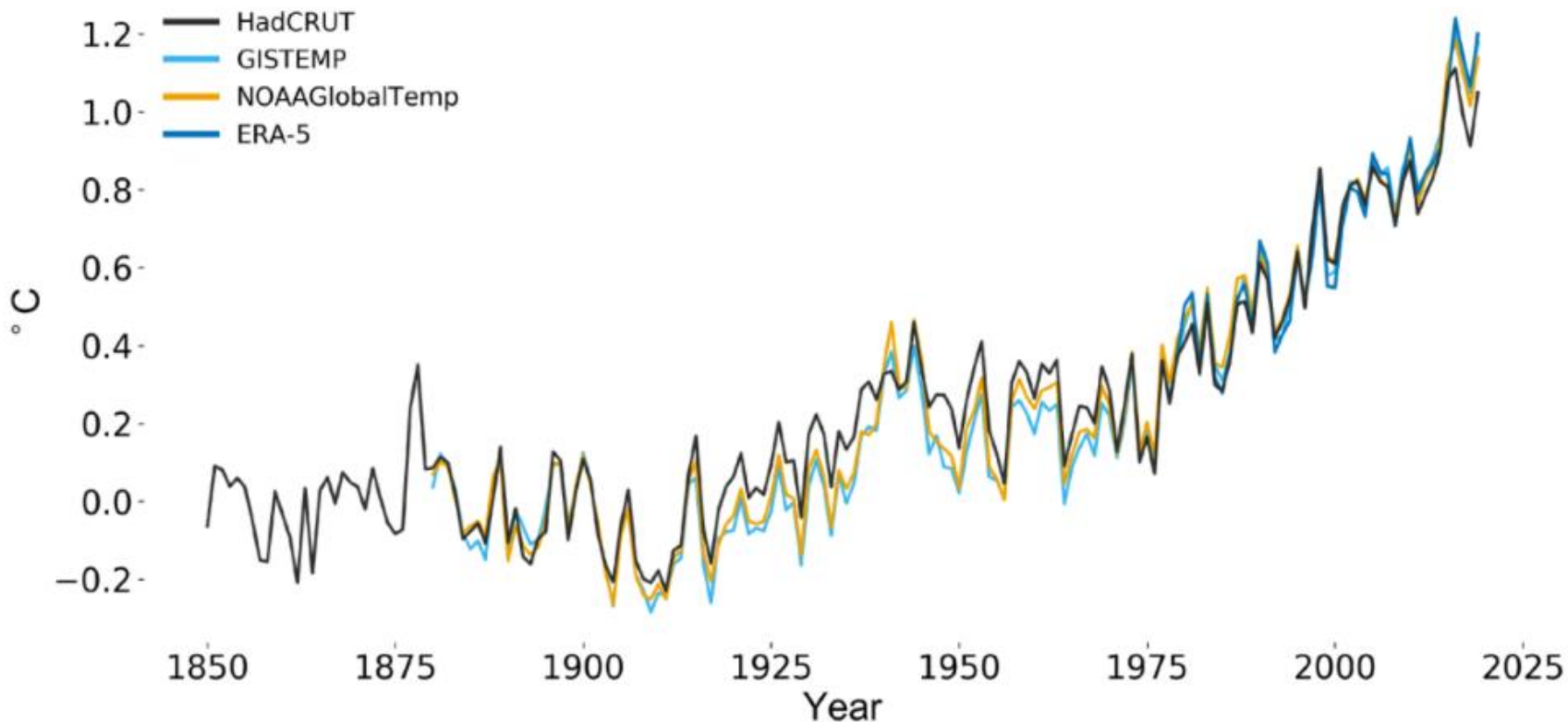
**#1: 2016 (hottest year on record)**

#2: 2020

#3: 2019

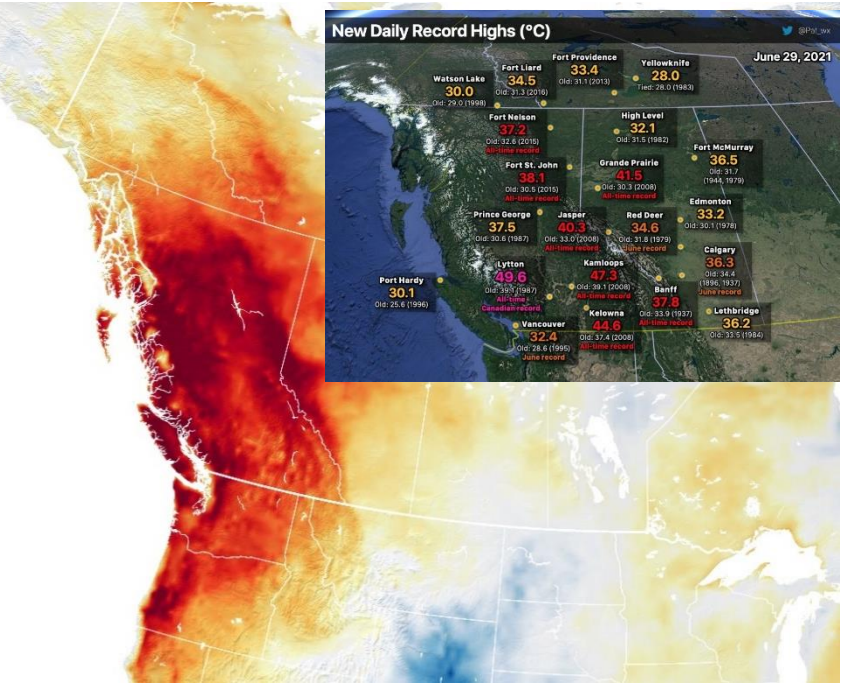
#4: 2015

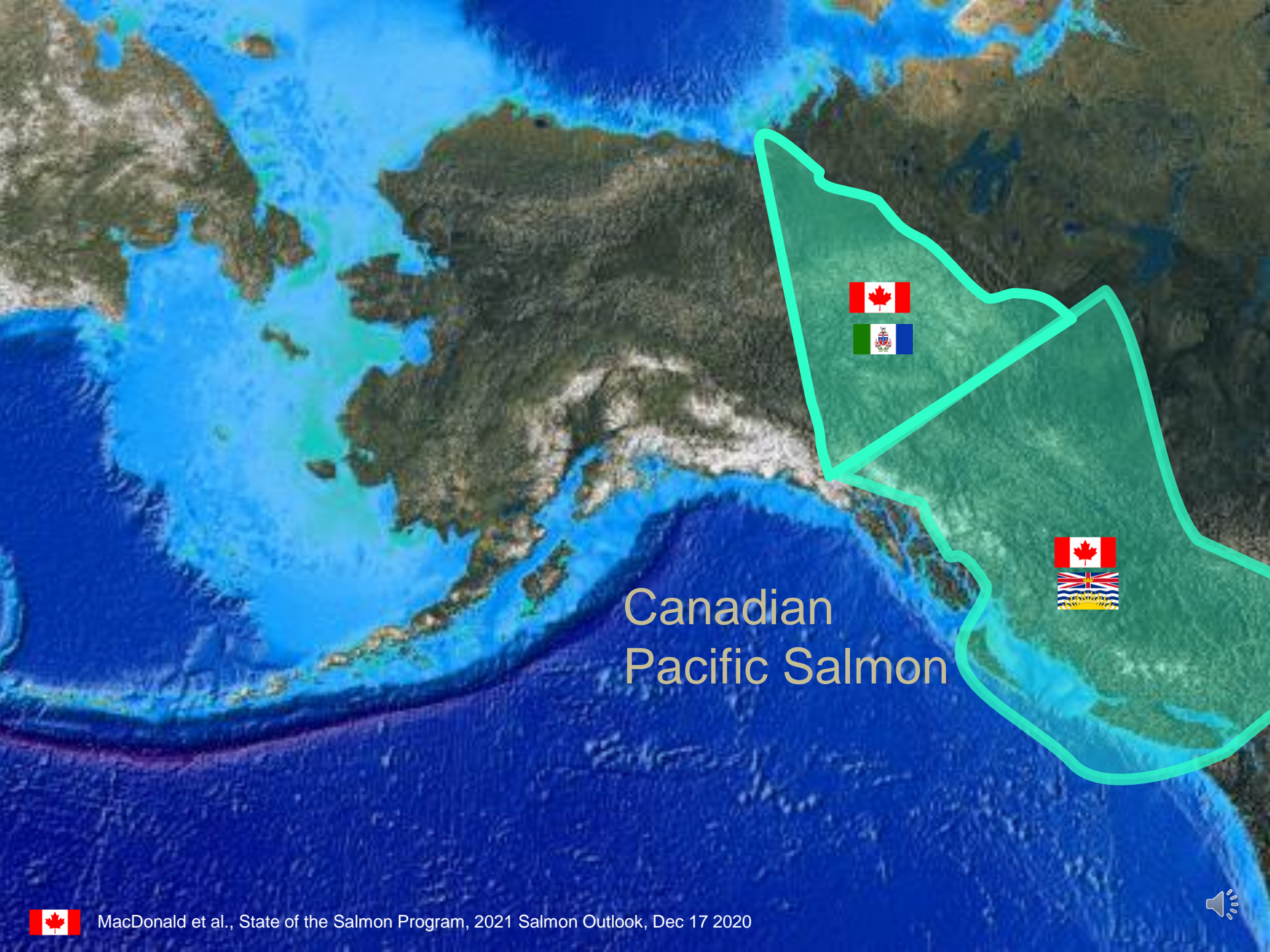
#5: 2017



Source: Met Office Hadley Centre and the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, UK (HadCRU) presented in World Meteorological Organization, 2020. WMO Statement on the State of Global Climate Change in 2019 (WMO-No. 1248), Figure 1, Page 6).

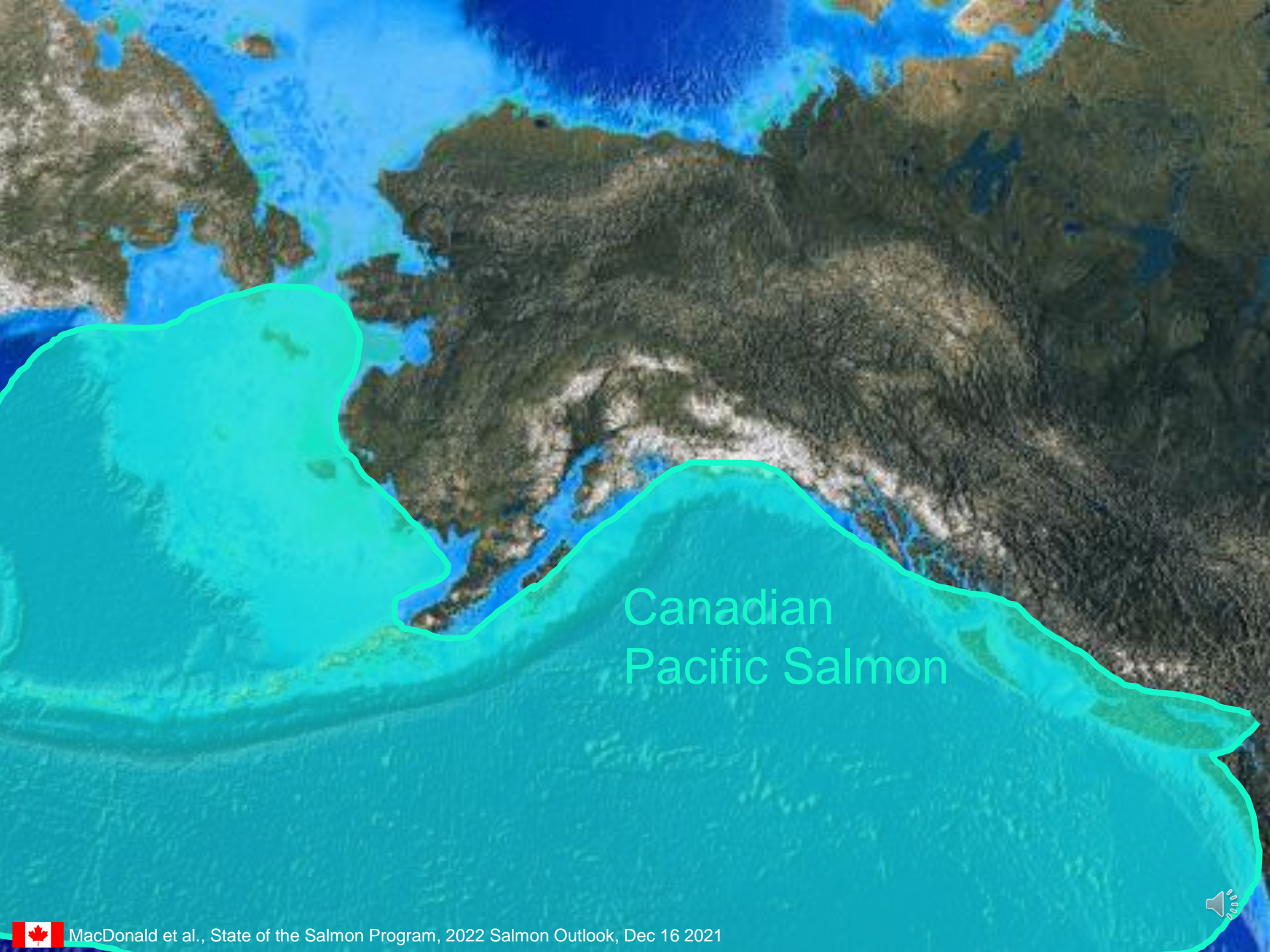






# Canadian Pacific Salmon





# Canadian Pacific Salmon





# 2022 Returns

spawning & egg incubation	fry-stream	fry-lake	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning
---------------------------	------------	----------	----------------	----------

Sockeye (5sub2)

Chinook (5sub2)

Sockeye (4sub2)

Chinook (4sub2)

Sockeye/Chum/Chinook (4sub1)

Sockeye (3sub2: jacks)

Coho (3sub2)

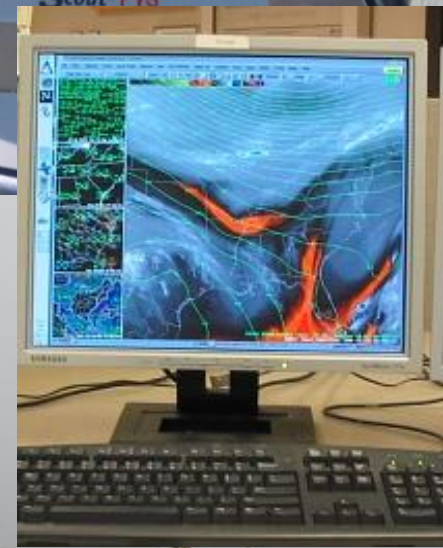
Sockeye/Chum (3sub1)

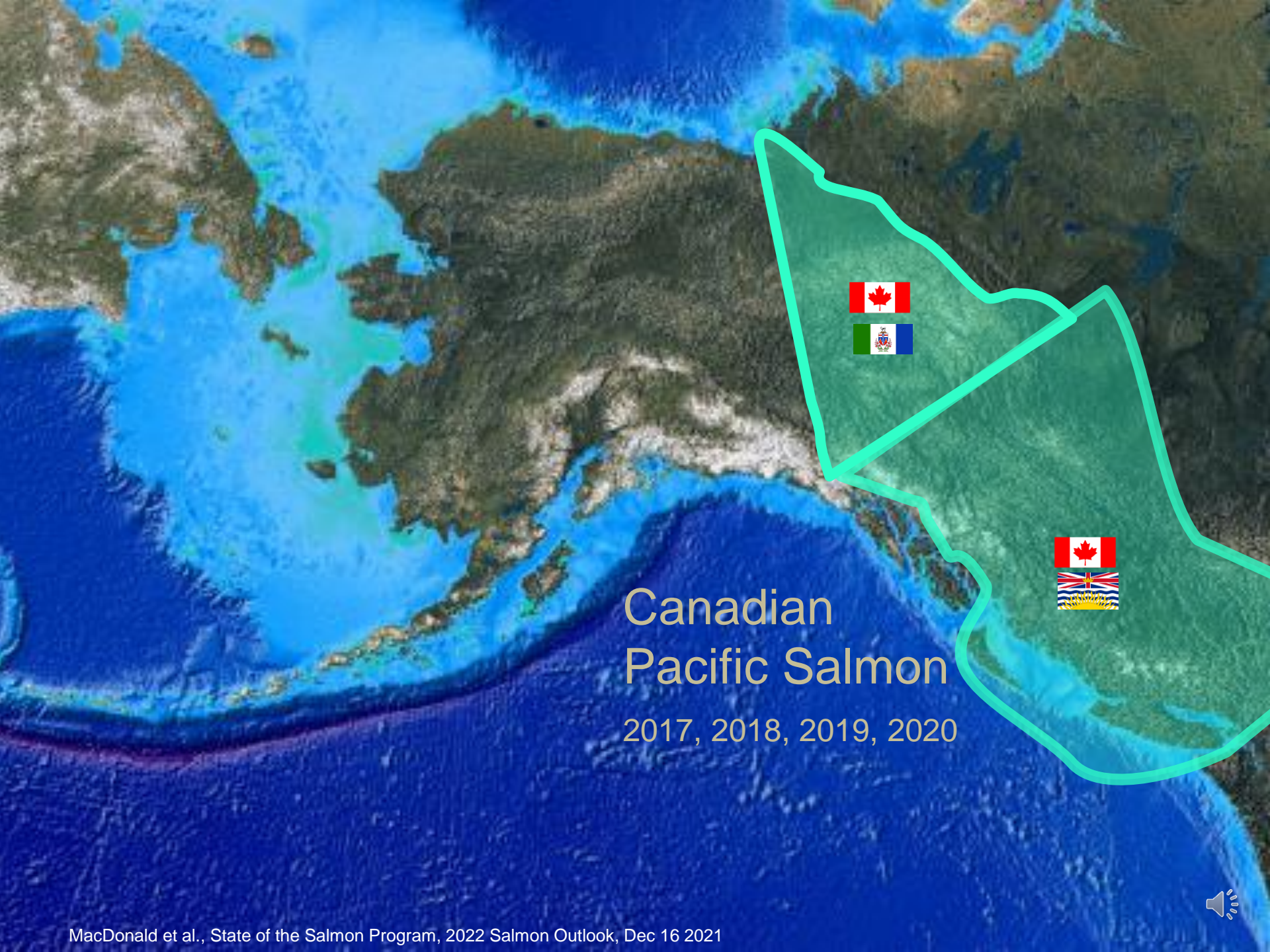
Pink (2sub1)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sockeye (5sub2)	spawning & egg incubation	lake	Juvenile-Ocean	Juvenile-Ocean	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning
Chinook (5sub2)	spawning & egg incubation	stream	Juvenile-Ocean	Juvenile-Ocean	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning
Sockeye (4sub2)	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	lake	Juvenile-Ocean	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning
Chinook (4sub2)	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	stream	Juvenile-Ocean	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning
Sockeye/Chum/Chinook (4sub1)	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	Juvenile-Ocean	Juvenile-Ocean	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning
Sockeye (3sub2: jacks)	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	lake	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning
Coho (3sub2)	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	stream	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning
Sockeye/Chum (3sub1)	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	Juvenile-Ocean	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning
Pink (2sub1)	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	spawning & egg incubation	Juvenile-Ocean	spawning



# Secchi Disk





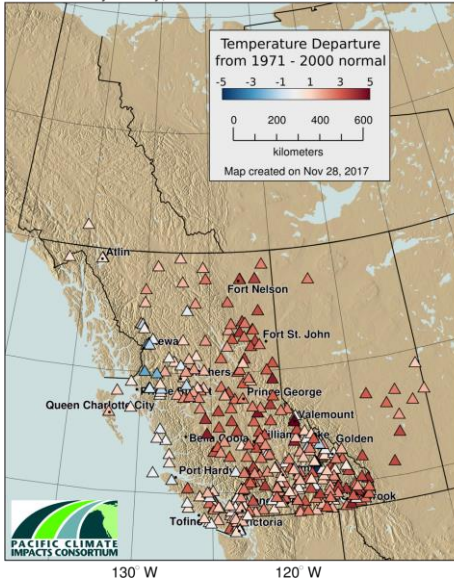
# Canadian Pacific Salmon

2017, 2018, 2019, 2020



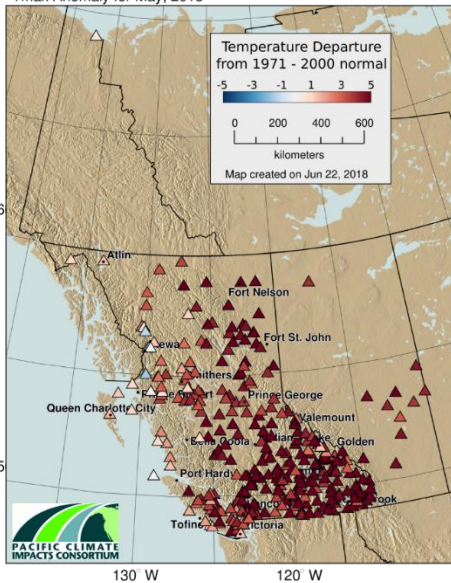
# Spring Air Temperatures

Tmax Anomaly for May, 2017



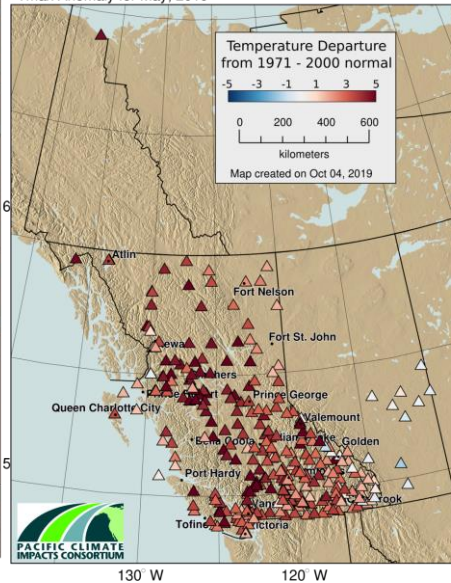
2017

Tmax Anomaly for May, 2018



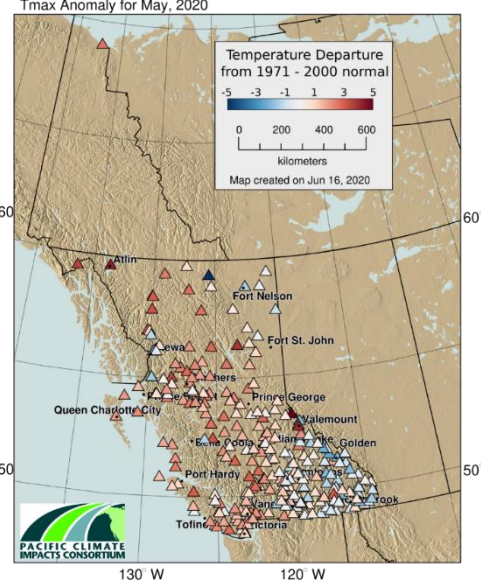
2018

Tmax Anomaly for May, 2019



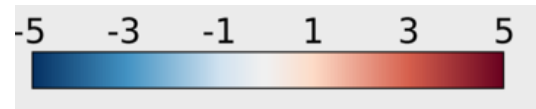
2019

Tmax Anomaly for May, 2020



2020

Cold

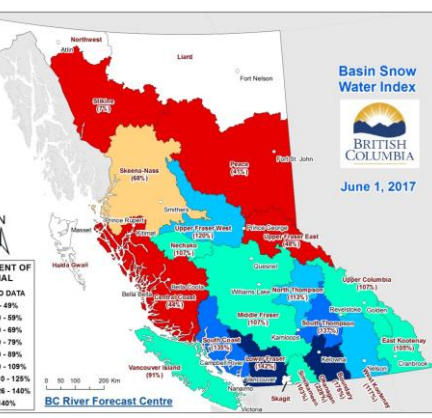


Warm

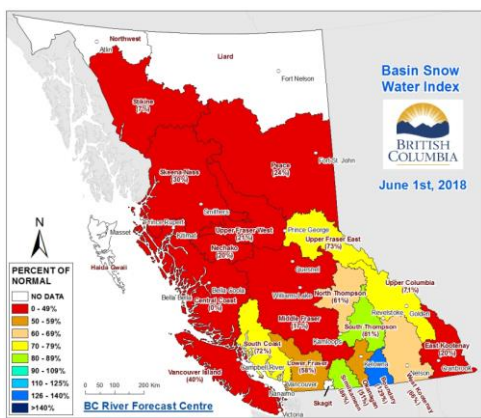
Reference period: 1971-2000



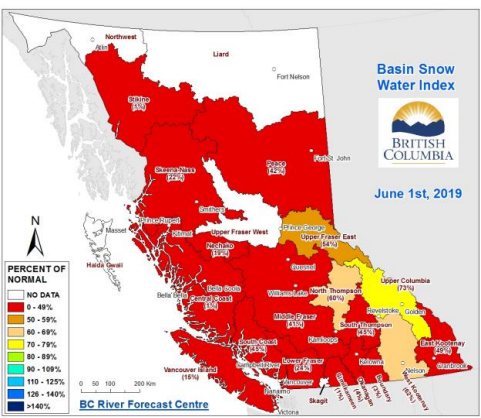
# Contributes to summer water temperatures



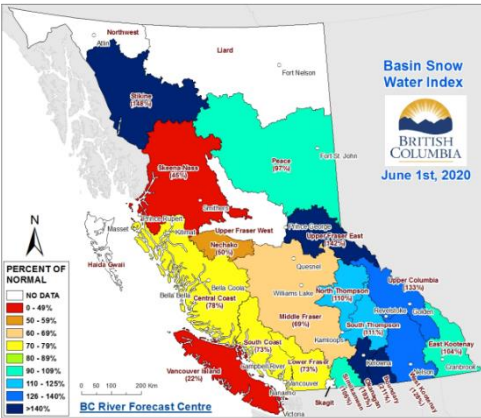
2017



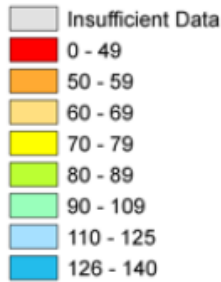
2018



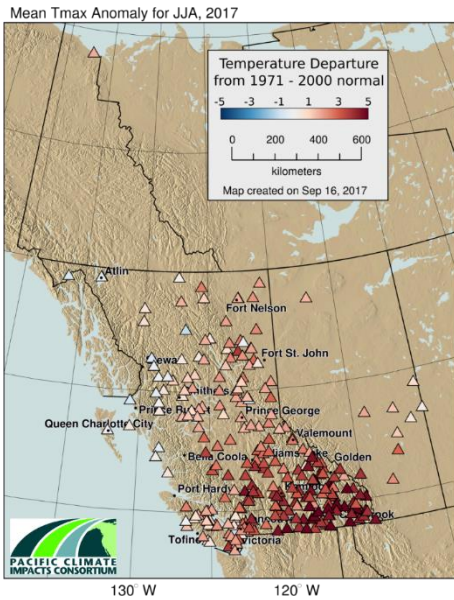
2019



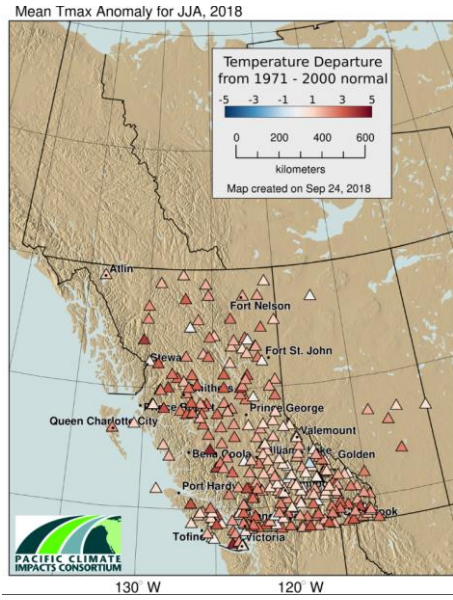
2020



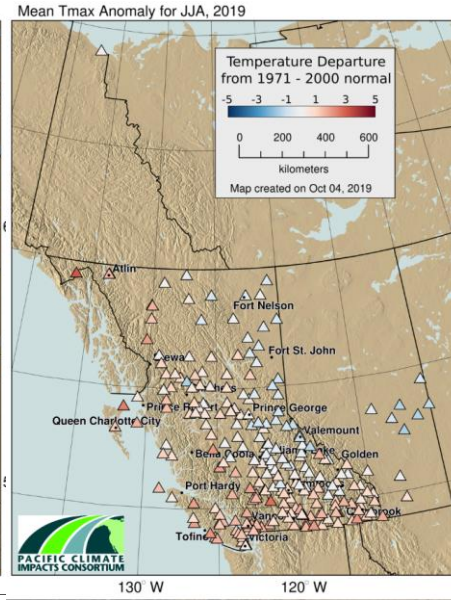
# Summer Air Temperatures



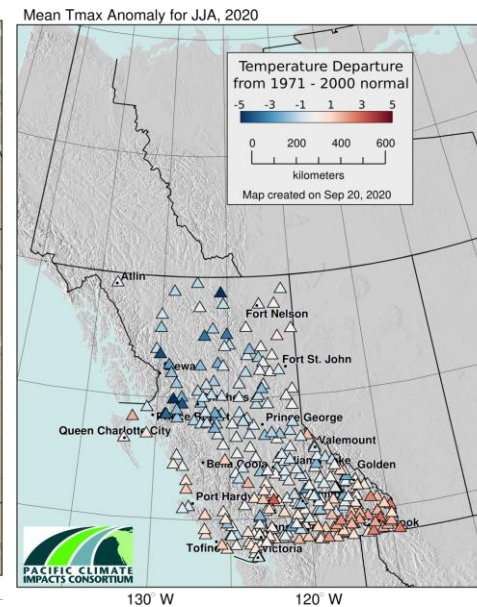
2017



2018

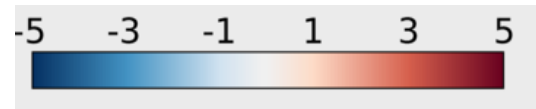


2019



2020

Cold



Warm

Reference period: 1971-2000





**Warmer summer water  
temperatures exceeding 18-20°C  
can negatively influence survival  
of adult migrating salmon**

**D. Patterson & K. Robinson  
DFO Environmental Watch Program**

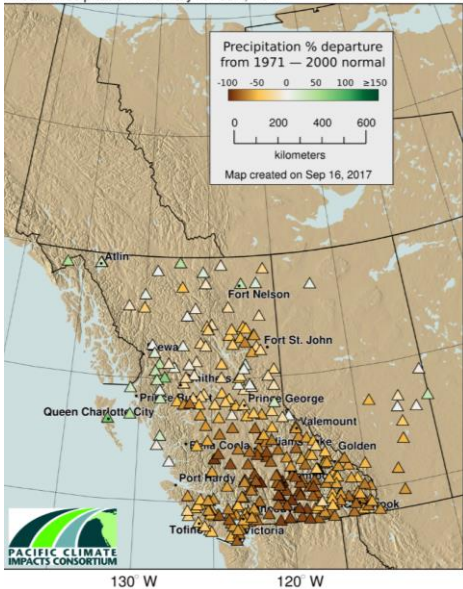
**Eagle River Sockeye**

Photo: 4 Element Photos  
S. Kalyn



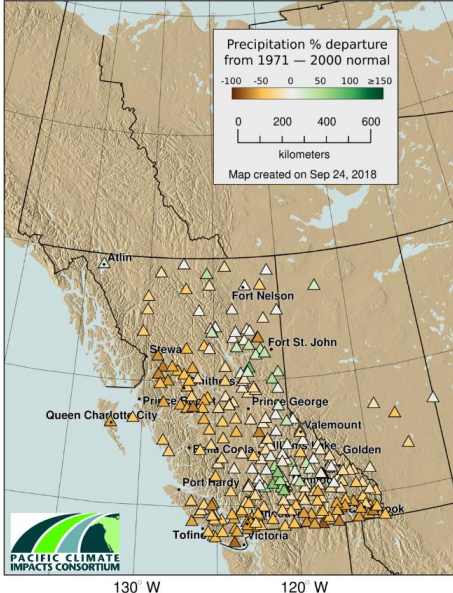
# Summer Precipitation

Mean Precipitation Anomaly for JJA, 2017



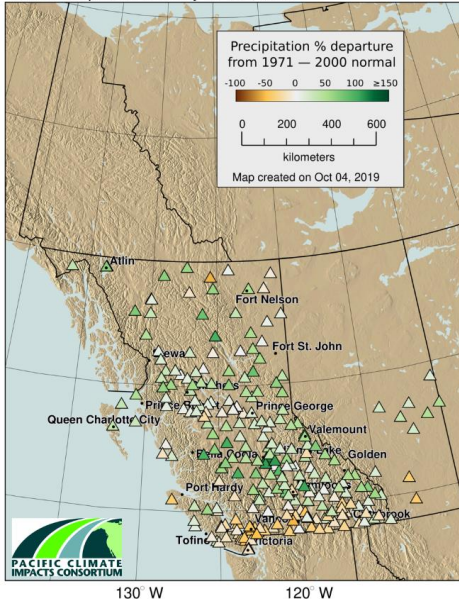
2017

Mean Precipitation Anomaly for JJA, 2018



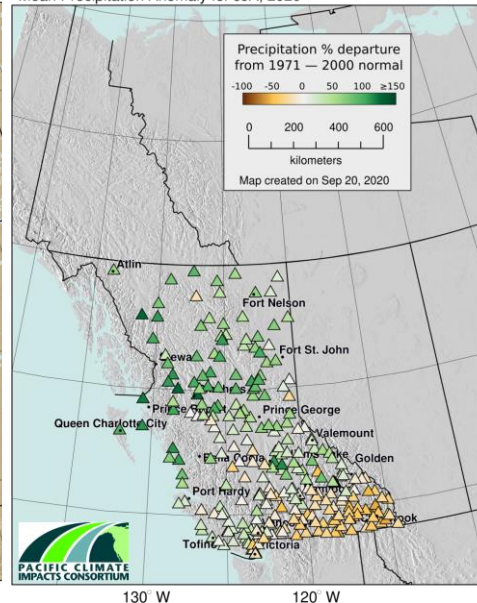
2018

Mean Precipitation Anomaly for JJA, 2019



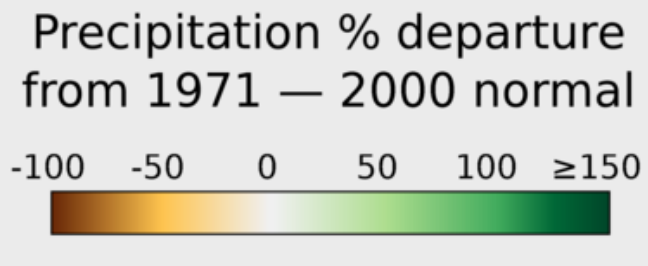
2019

Mean Precipitation Anomaly for JJA, 2020



2020

Dry



Wet

Reference period: 1971-2000



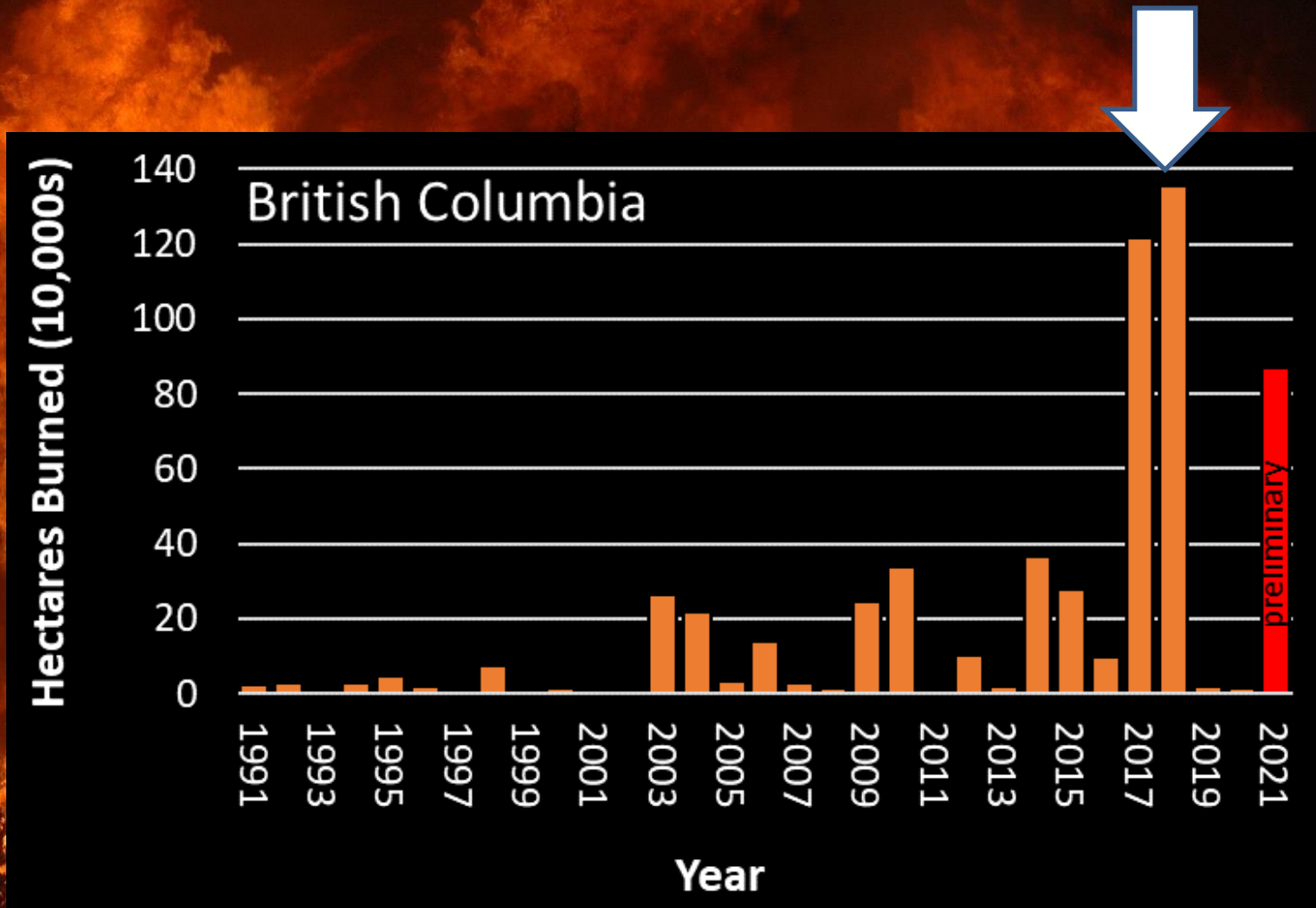
# Drought conditions in Skeena/Nass in summer months

C. Carr-Harris, DFO



Bonaparte River from mid August 2011  
Source: C. Parken, DFO





Implications for our salmon in freshwater are not entirely known



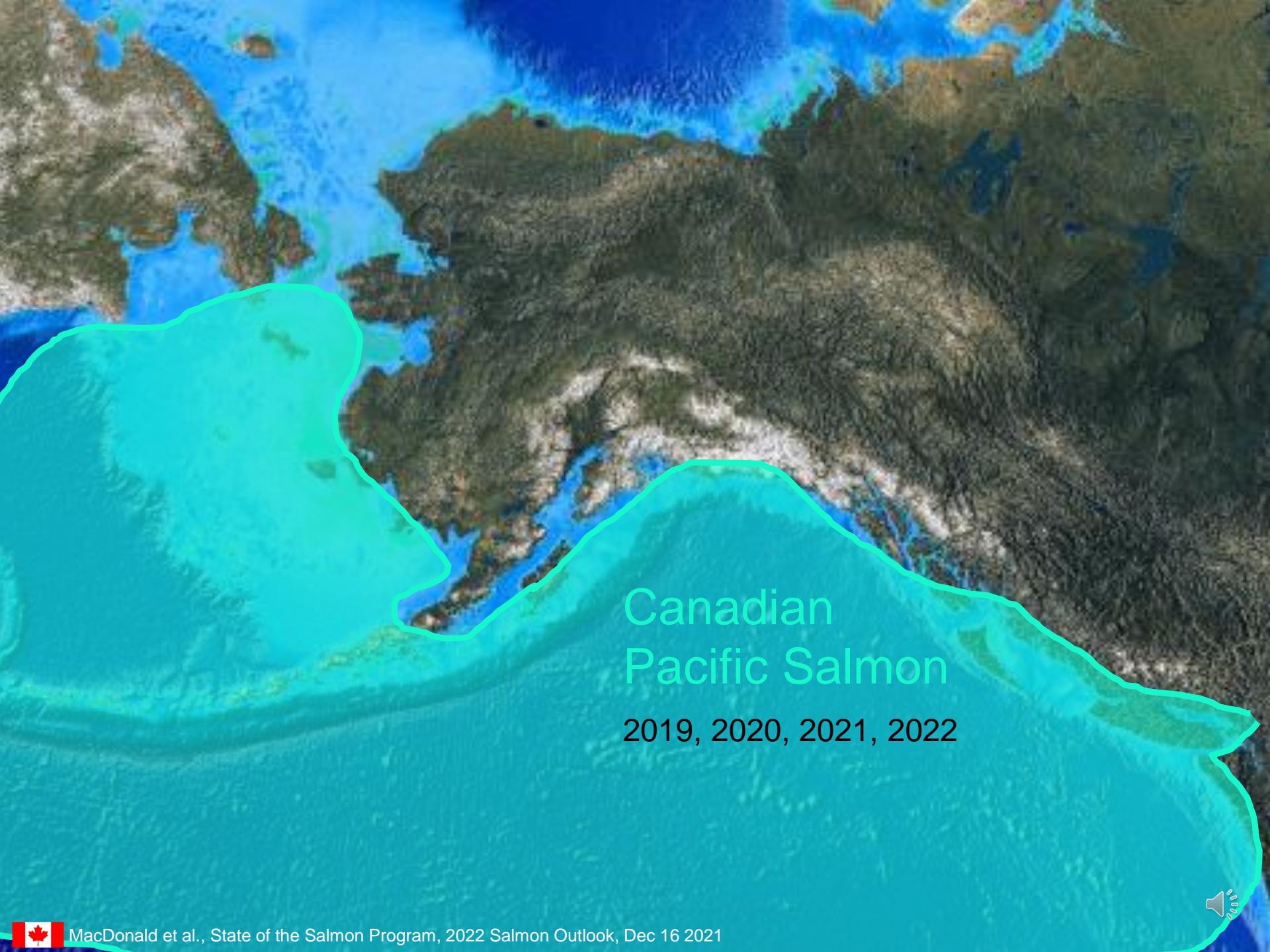
# Slope Destabilization

“Loss of forest canopy due to fire, pine beetle and logging has pushed a number of streams over the “tipping point” and there is considerable loss of stability”

R.E. Bailey, DFO

BC Interior  
Source: R.E. Bailey



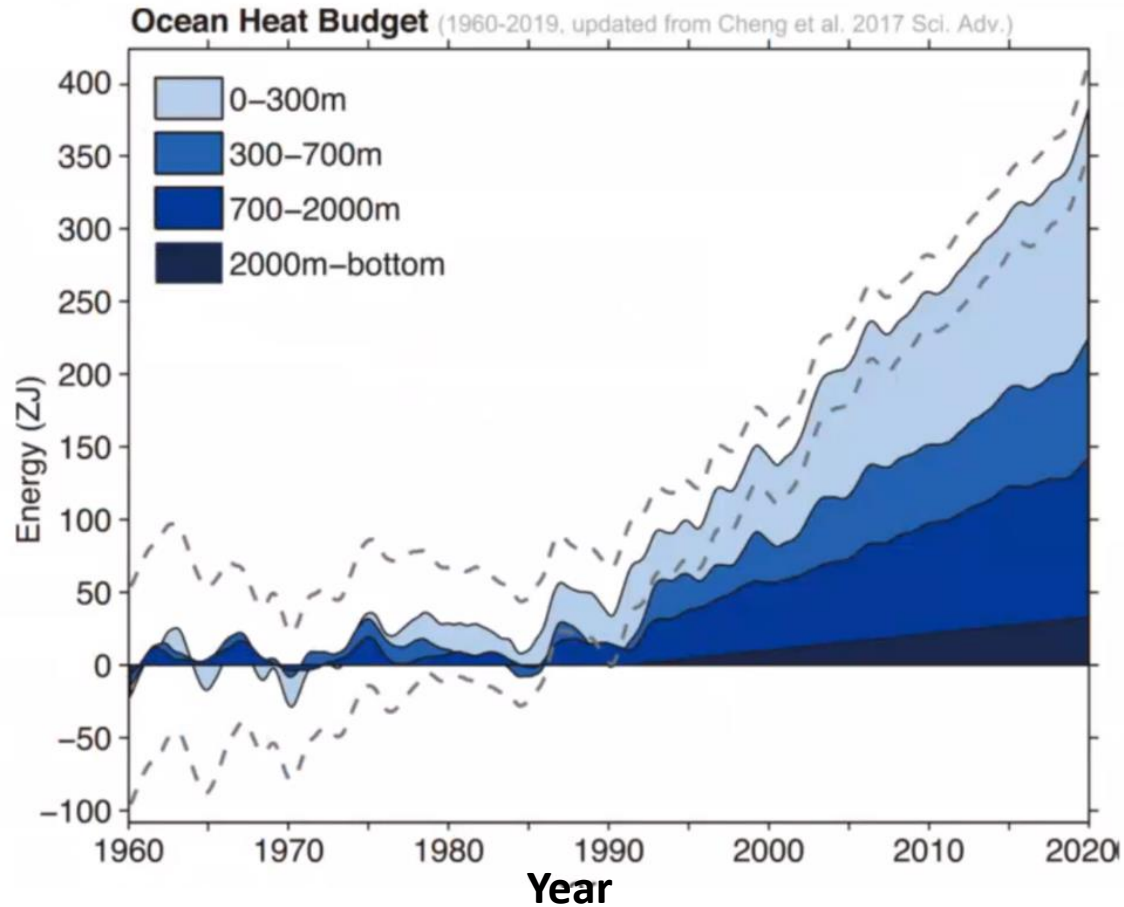


# Canadian Pacific Salmon

2019, 2020, 2021, 2022



# The ocean has absorbed 90% of earth's excess heat



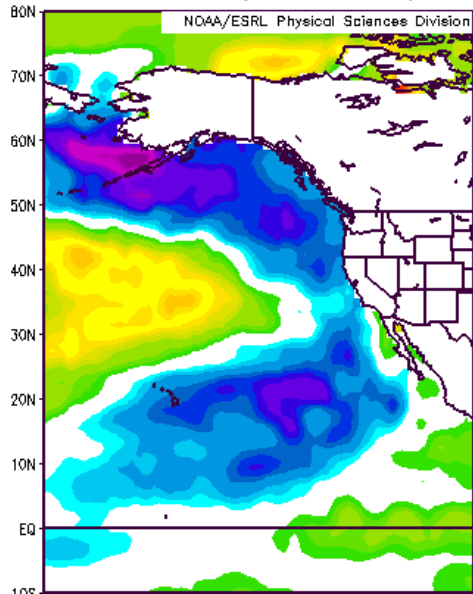
Cheng et al. 2020. Adv. Atmos. Sci 37: 137-142

(1 ZJ =  $10^{21}$  J)

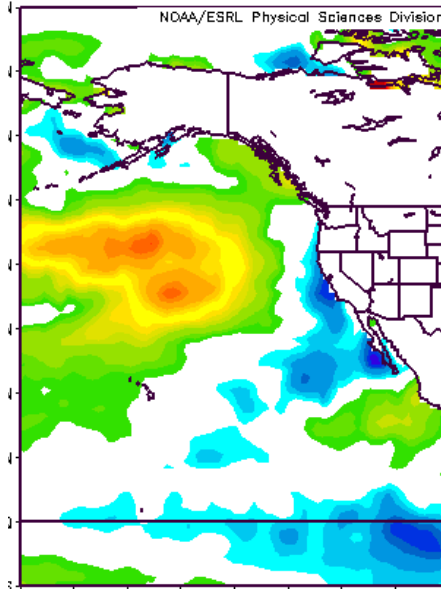
Year



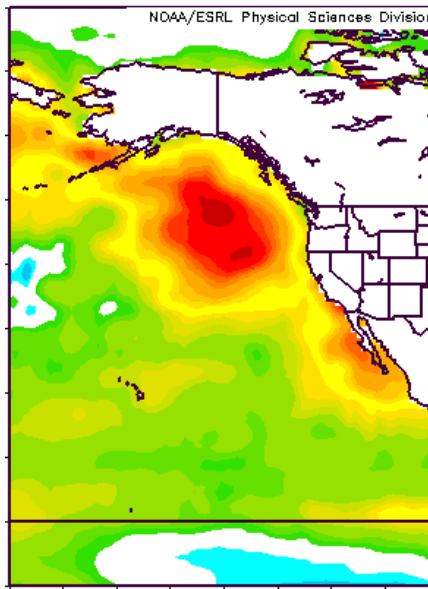
2012 (Jan-Dec)



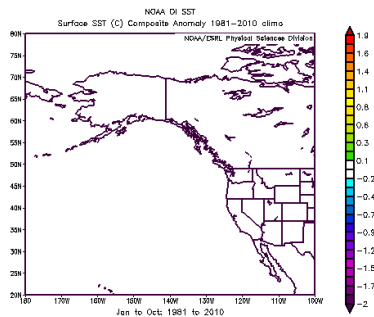
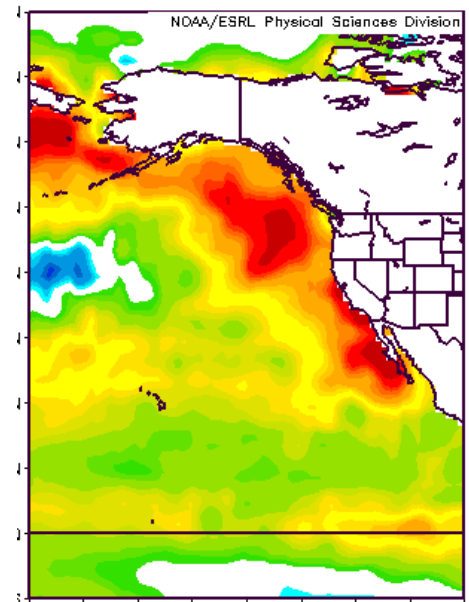
2013 (Jan-Dec)



2014 (Jan-June)



2014 (July-Dec)



**The 'Blob'  
2<sup>nd</sup> half of  
2013**

**The 'Blob'**

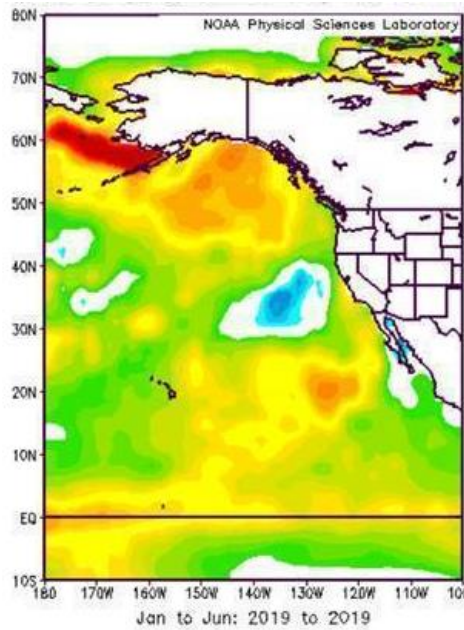
**The 'Blob'  
Coastal**

Reference Period  
from 1981 to 2010

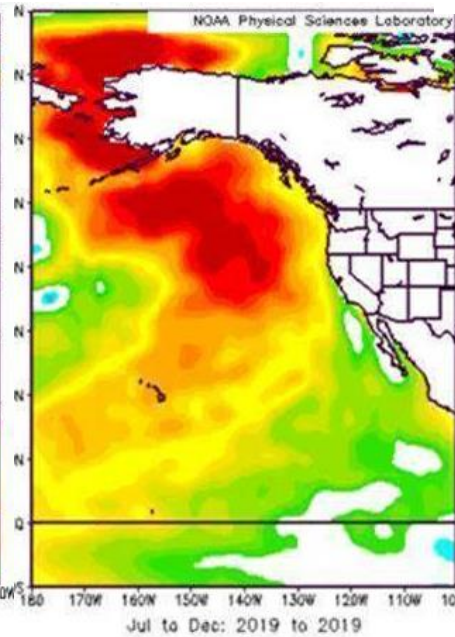
In consultation with J. Boldt, I. Perry, T. Ross, J. King & C. Neville



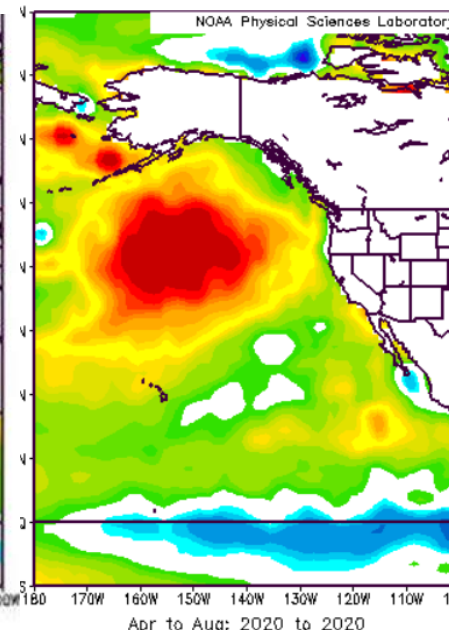
**Jan - June 2019**



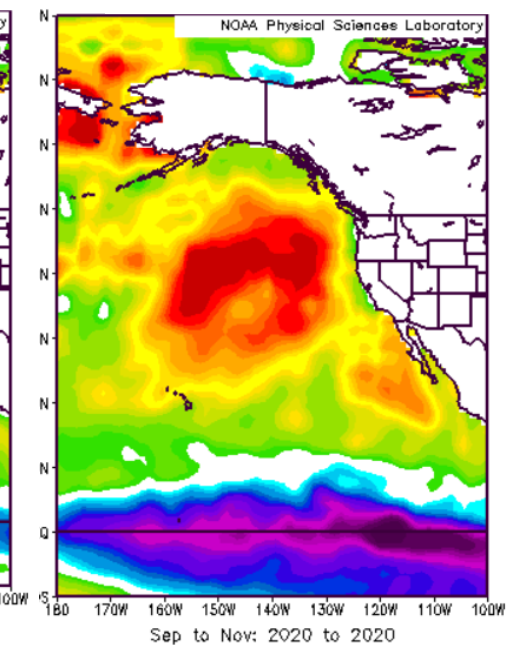
**July-Dec 2019**



**April-Aug 2020**



**Sept-Dec 2020**



**Similar to average**

**2019 marine heatwave:**

- Second largest observed in 40 years of data
- Did not dissipate in 2019

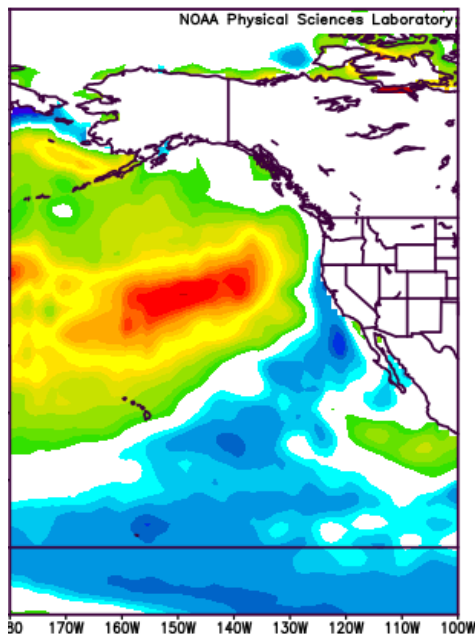
**Heatwave returns in the spring & summer**

**Remains warm as La Niña develops**

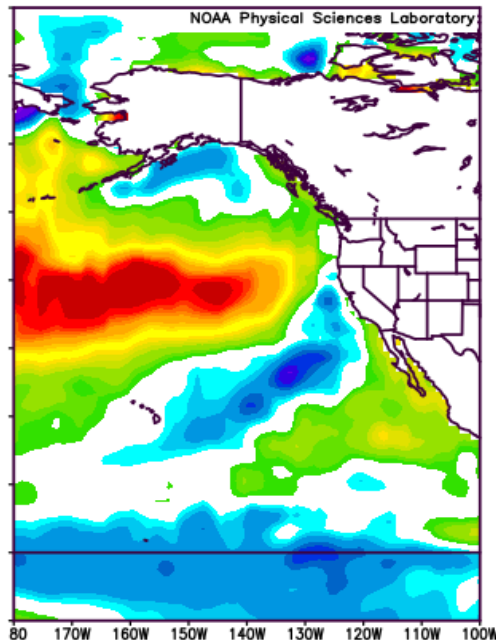
In consultation with J. Boldt, I. Perry, T. Ross, J. King & C. Neville



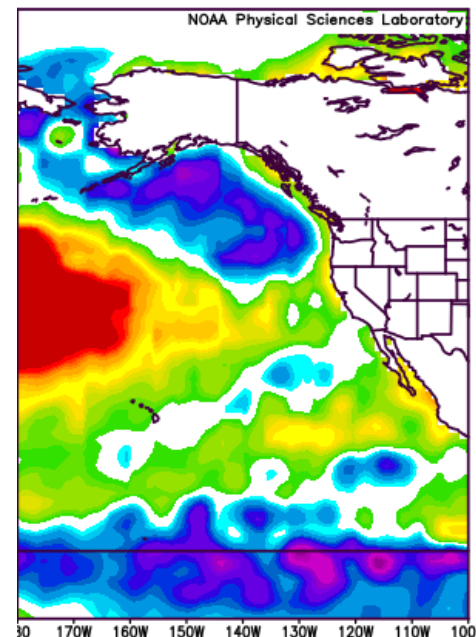
## 2021 (Jan-June)



## 2021 (Jul-Nov)



## 2021 (Nov)



**Remains warm as La Niña develops**



**Northern Zooplankton**




↓  
**LARGER  
ENERGY RICH  
ZOOPLANKTON  
DECREASE IN  
WARM CONDITIONS**

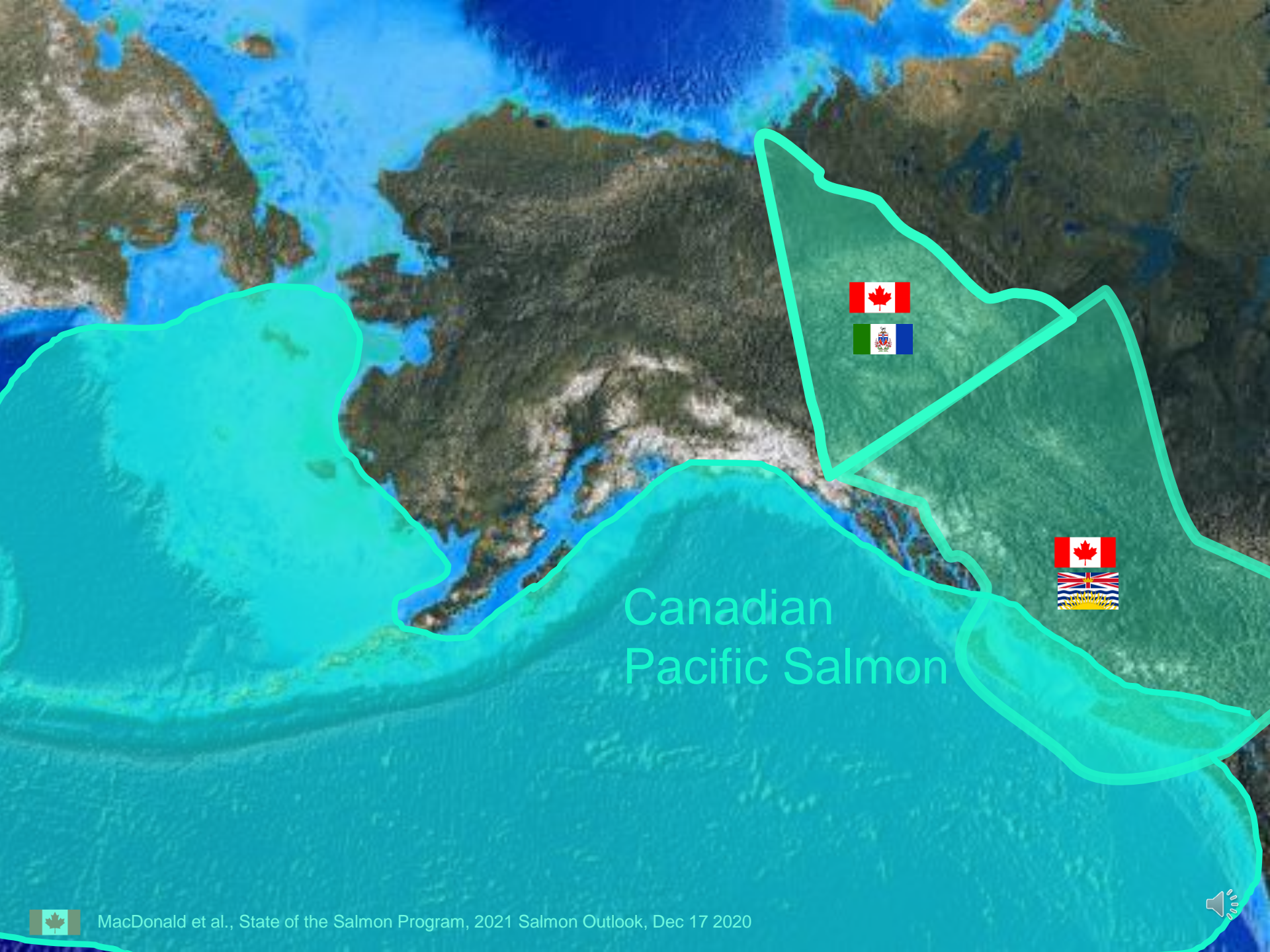


**Southern Zooplankton**



↑  
**SMALLER  
ENERGY POOR  
ZOOPLANKTON  
INCREASE IN  
WARM CONDITIONS**

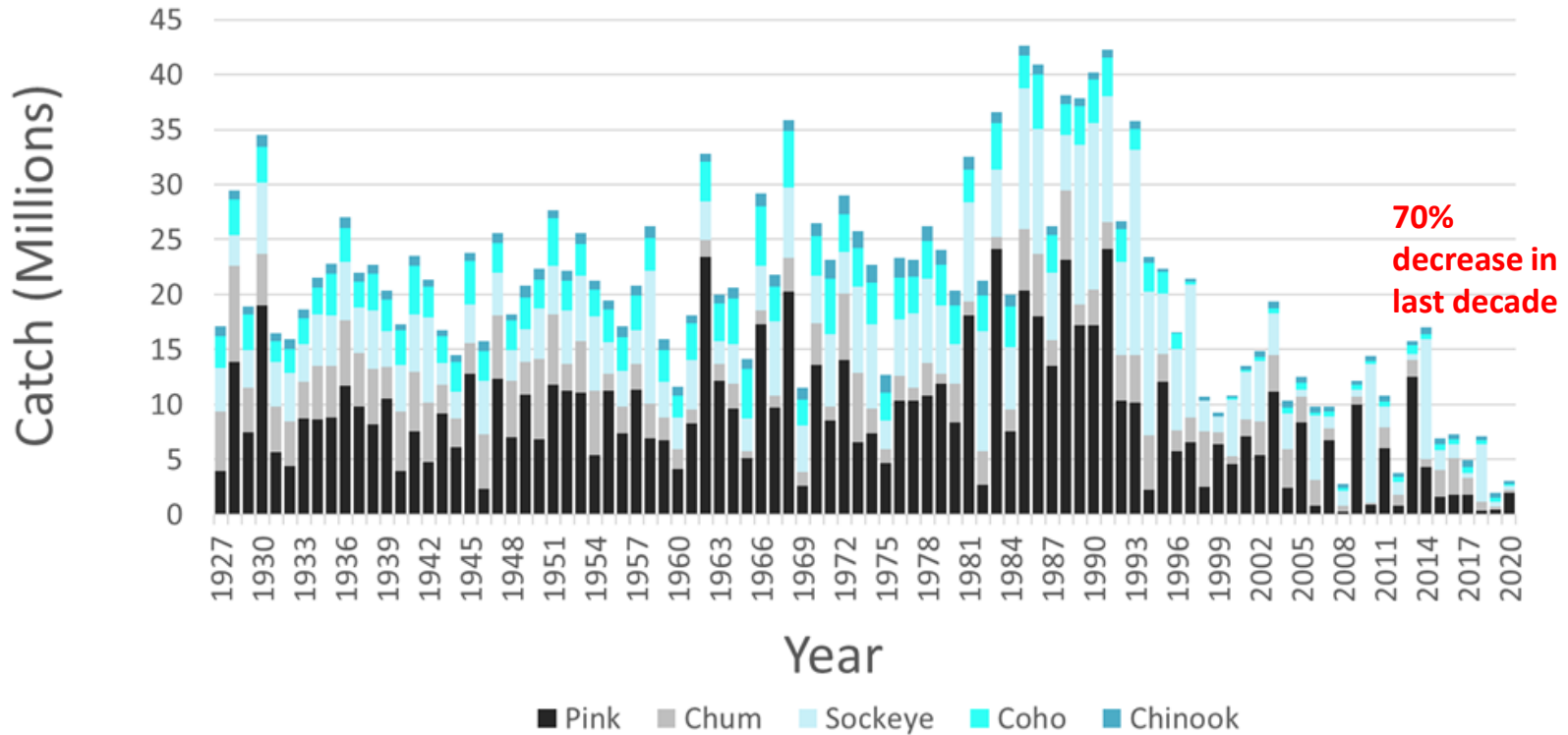




# Canadian Pacific Salmon



# Large Declines in Canadian Pacific Salmon Catch



An aerial photograph of a river with many salmon swimming in the water. The water is a greenish-brown color, and the riverbed is visible with rocks and some fallen branches. The right bank is covered with green trees and bushes, and there is a large pile of dry sticks and branches in the water near the shore.

# Environmental Conditions: Informing Salmon Returns in 2022

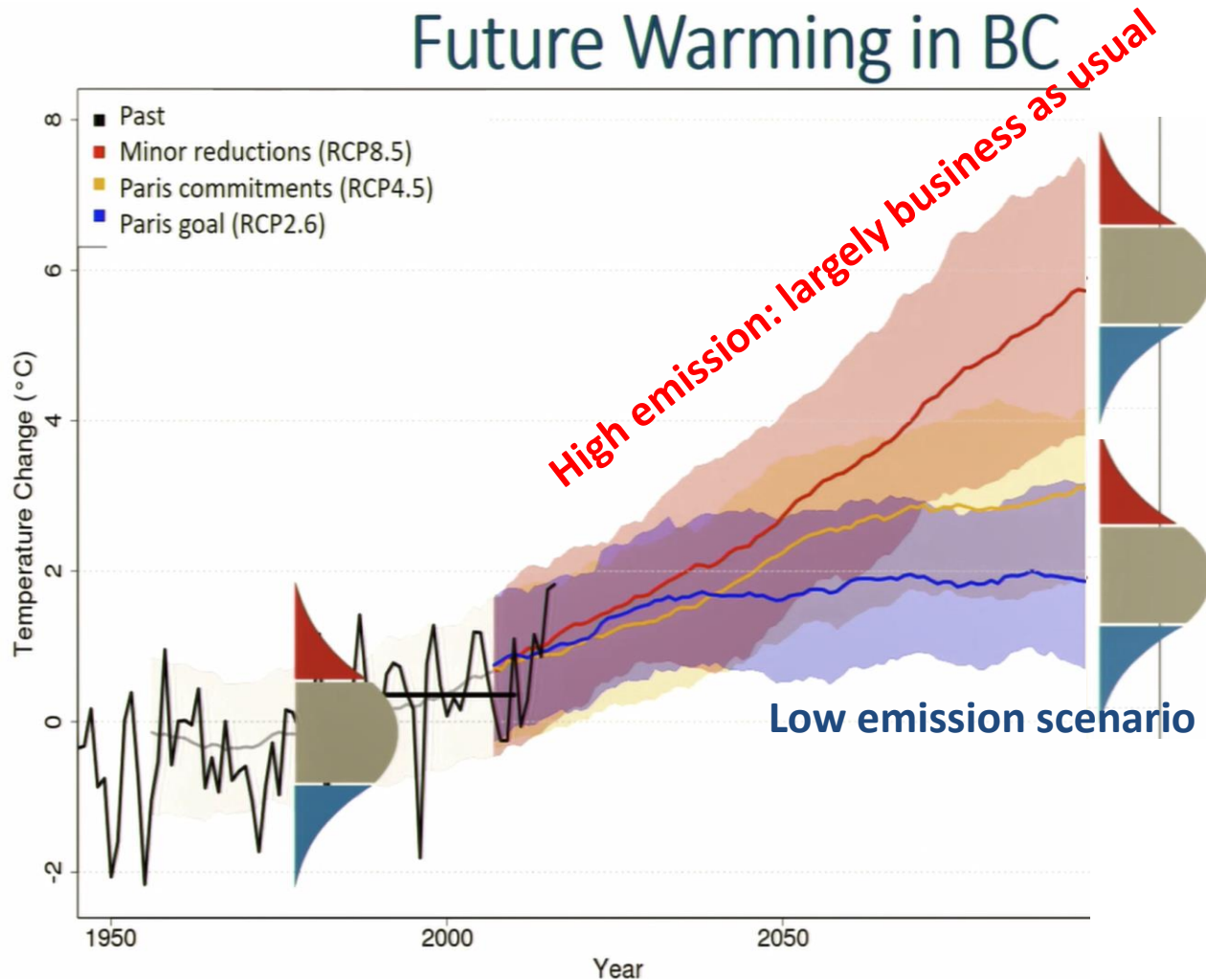
**We predict that 2022 Canadian Pacific salmon productivity will generally be below historical averages**

**\*Exceptions & conditions will vary by population**

Photo: 4 Element Photos  
S. Kalyn



# The future of salmon species in the wild will depend on how successfully we curb greenhouse gas emissions.



Source: Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium



# Contributors

## DFO Marine:

J. King

C. Neville

I. Perry

J. Boldt

P. Chandler

T. Ross

A. Sastri

M. Galbraith

K. Young

## DFO Freshwater:

D. Patterson

D. Selbie

L. Pon

K. Robinson

Photo: 4 Element Photos

S. Kalyn

## State of Pacific Ocean reports:

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/publications/index-eng.html#soto-pac-tech>

## University of Victoria Pacific Climate Impacts

### Consortium anomaly maps

<https://www.pacificclimate.org/analysis-tools/seasonal-anomaly-maps>

## DFO's State of Salmon report

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/publications/salmon-saumon/state-etat-2019/abstract-resume/index-eng.html>

## Environmental conditions for 2022 returning salmon will be published in Salmon Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMP's)

