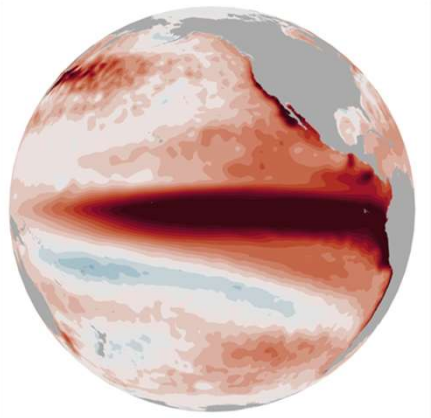




2026 EL NIÑO & SOCKEYE SALMON RETURNS



Update of in-season sockeye run size estimates

Canadian stocks

Catherine Michielsens, Serena Wong, Tosh Sutherland, Steve Latham
and PSC Secretariat staff

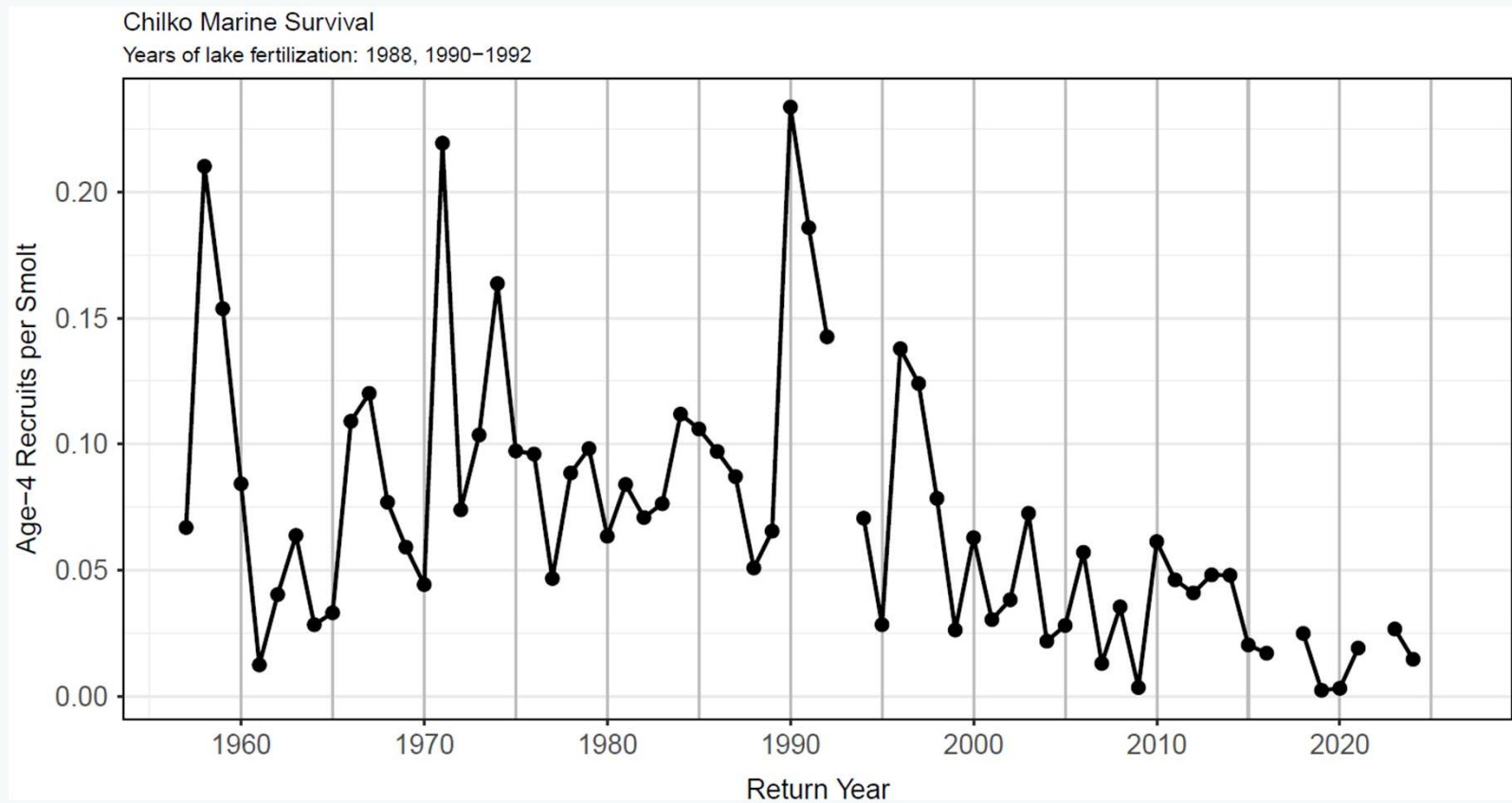
Aug 19, 2026

In-season run size estimates

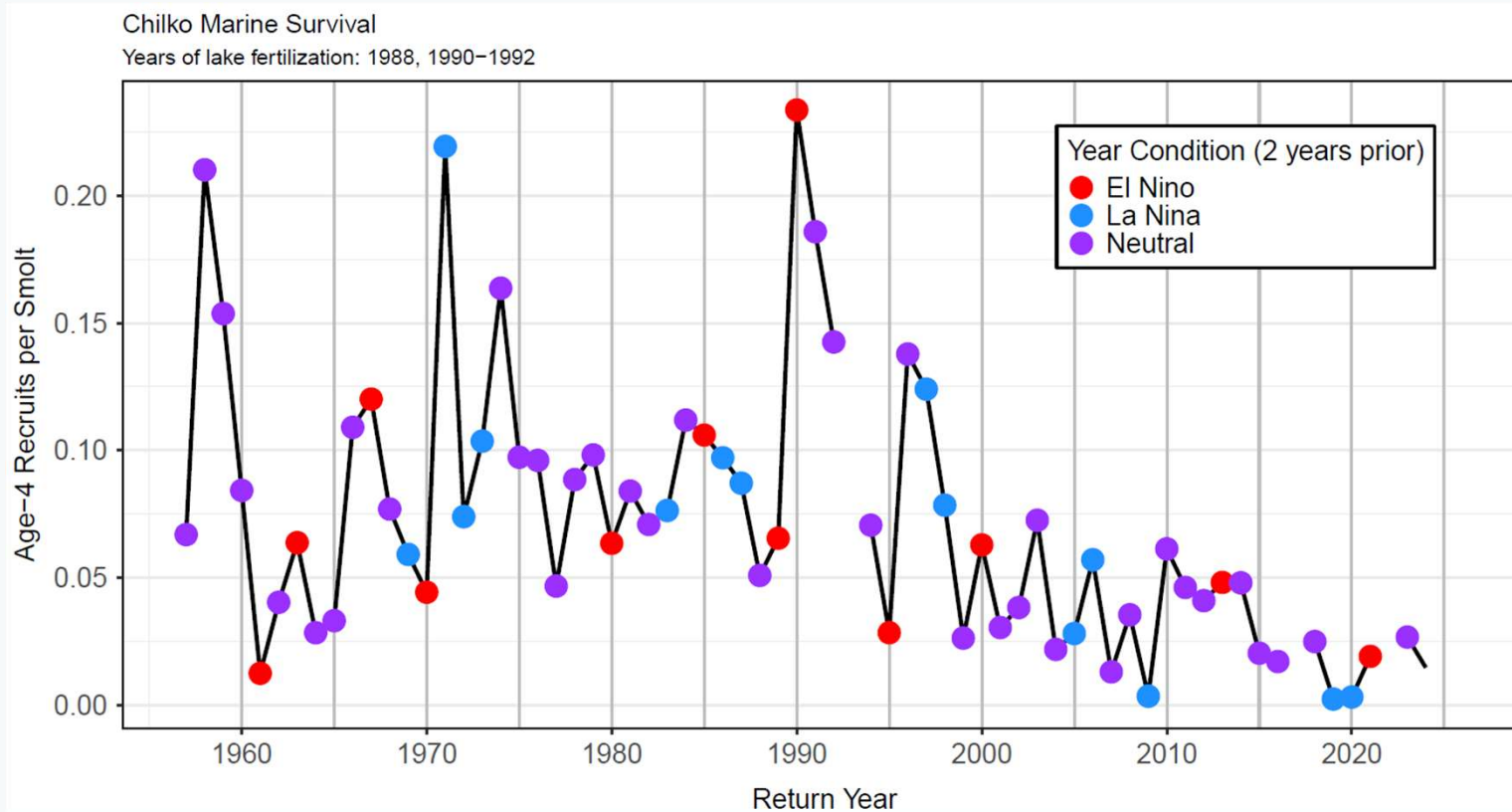
As of August 18, 2026

	Preseason forecast	In-season run size	Compared to forecast
Nass River	435,000	358,000	-18%
Skeena River	1.5 million	2.1 million	+39%
Barkley Sound	750,000	900,000	+20%
Fraser River	7.7 million	3.5 million	-54%
Early Stuart	63,000	46,000	-27%
Early Summers	1.2 million	250,000	-79%
Summers	4.3 million	2.2 million	-49%
Late run	2.2 million	1 million	-54%

Chilko sockeye marine survival over time



Marine survival by El Niño / La Niña conditions



Source of El Niño/La Niña data: NOAA Climate Prediction Center, Oceanic Niño Index (ONI), 3-month running mean of ERSST.v5 SST anomalies in the Niño 3.4 region. https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/ONI_v5.php (accessed 17 Aug 2026).

Forecasting is hard — but the data are openly available

Think you know how the 2026 El Niño will impact future sockeye returns? Prove it!



The Salmon Prize Competition

An open forecasting challenge for Pacific salmon returns. Submit a forecast and see how it scores against others.

salmonprize.com



Diagnostics Toolkit

Open-source repository with data, team forecasts, method descriptions and comparisons across systems, years and teams.

[github.com/SOLV-Code/
SalmonPrize_Diagnostics](https://github.com/SOLV-Code/SalmonPrize_Diagnostics)



Fraser Sockeye Data

Stock–recruit dataset by stock and brood year, published and maintained by the PSC.

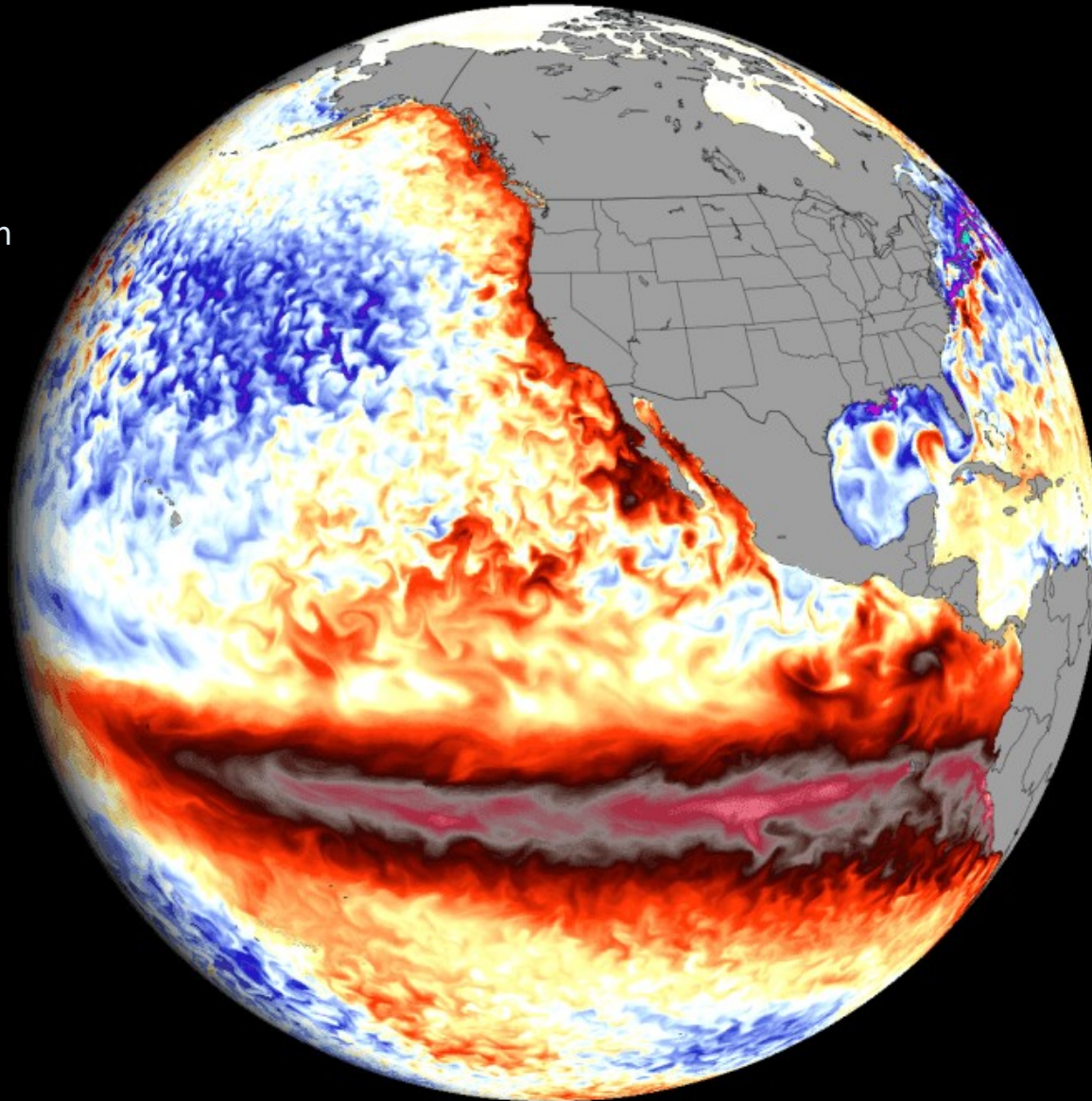
[psc.org/publications/data/
fraser-sockeye-stock-recruit-dataset](https://psc.org/publications/data/fraser-sockeye-stock-recruit-dataset)

Full links:

- <https://salmonprize.com>
- https://github.com/SOLV-Code/SalmonPrize_Diagnostics
- <https://www.psc.org/publications/data/fraser-sockeye-stock-recruit-dataset/>

Thank you

Questions and discussion



*No salmon were consulted in
the making of this presentation*