

Chinook in the Okanagan



This initiative is part of the ONA's ongoing commitment and responsibility for salmon recovery throughout Syilx territory

CALLING ALL ANGLERS AND FISHING GROUPS TO SUPPORT TRACKING EFFORTS



Photo: Adult Chinook

Chinook Salmon Encounters in Okanagan Valley Lakes

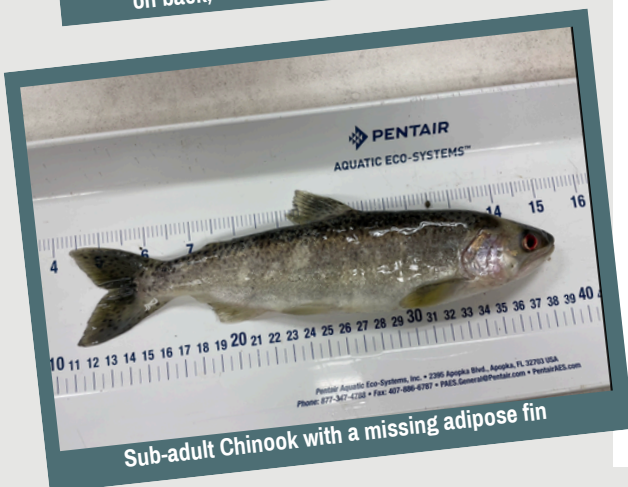
The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) is aware of increasing reports of Chinook Salmon encounters throughout Okanagan Valley lakes, including confirmed catches of sub-adult Chinook Salmon in Okanagan Lake. Adult and sub-adult Chinook may be encountered throughout the Okanagan valley, including Osoyoos, Vaseux, Skaha, Okanagan, Kalamalka and Wood lakes, and the Okanagan River. Some of the fish originate from a stock rebuilding program that is part of the ONA's ongoing commitment and responsibility for restoring this endangered species and other salmon populations throughout Syilx territory.

Both adult and sub-adult/juvenile Chinook are uniquely distinguished from trout and other salmon by their darkened, or black gums and heavy spotting (fuzzy "x" shapes above lateral line on back), black spots on upper and lower tail, and "vee" shaped tail. Hatchery Chinook from the stock rebuilding program have a missing adipose fin. Sub-adults may be encountered throughout the watershed at any time of the year and are approximately 25-35 cm in length.

We are encouraging all anglers that encounter a Chinook to **minimize handling** and to release them unharmed. If you happen to keep a Chinook, they may contain a small wire tag (PIT tag) approx. 12 mm in length to track their behavior and survival. **Please contact the ONA to submit PIT tags or report Chinook encounters.**



Oliver, BC: Sub-adult Chinook heavy spotting on back, and top and bottom of tail



Sub-adult Chinook with a missing adipose fin

For more information or to submit Chinook catch information, please contact:

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ONA Angler Identification Program: Chinook Salmon



This program is part of the ONA's ongoing commitment and responsibility for salmon reintroduction throughout Syilx territory

Calling all anglers and fishing groups to support tracking efforts



Photo: Adult Chinook

Photo Credit: D. Pasin 2022



Trail, BC: Sub-adult chinook heavy spotting on back, and top and bottom of tails

Photo Credit: J. Lybacki 2022



Castlegar, BC: Sub-adult chinook black/dark gums

Chinook Identified in the Upper Columbia

Since March 2022, there have been confirmed catches of sub-adult/juvenile chinook salmon in the eastern portion of Syilx territory — including in the Lower Arrow Lakes, on the Columbia River down river from the Keenleyside Dam and in the Waneta area.

The Okanagan Nation Alliance is calling all anglers and fishing groups to support our efforts in tracking these adult and sub-adult/juvenile chinook salmon in the Columbia region. **If you catch a chinook the following information is requested:** size (fork length), and location of capture (GPS coordinates ideal), along with photo documentation.

We are encouraging all anglers to **minimize handling** when gathering sufficient information for documentation, and to release all specimens after documenting. Please note they may contain a PIT tag - please contact us to send all PIT tags to ONA.

Both adult and sub-adult/juvenile chinook are uniquely distinguished from other trout and salmon by their darkened, or black gums and heavy spotting (fuzzy "x" shapes above lateral line on back), and black spots on upper and lower tail.

For more information or to submit chinook catch information, please contact:

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