

UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER Chinook Broodstock Pilot



RESTORING CHINOOK POPULATIONS

Chinook salmon have been extirpated from the Canadian Upper Columbia River; however, recent releases of translocated adults by U.S. tribal groups have led to spawning in the area in recent years.

As part of the Syilx Okanagan Nation's *kł c̓pəlk stíh* initiative, ONA has been successfully beach seining and collecting Sockeye eggs and milt in the Okanagan River since 2004, and will now expand this effort to the Columbia River.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project aims to collect adult Chinook salmon from the Upper Columbia for spawning and rearing at the ONA's *kł c̓pəlk stíh* Hatchery, with the goal of releasing the offspring back into the Upper Columbia River to support salmon reintroduction efforts in the area.



kł c̓pəlk stíh
cause to come back

The Okanagan Nation Alliance continues the work of our ancestors by caring for the land and the living things that inhabit it. This initiative is part of our broader mission of *kł c̓pəlk stíh*, which aims to return salmon to their natural habitats and ranges.



THE BROODSTOCK PROCESS

Using beach seines in areas anticipated to hold Chinook, the catch is sorted to return non-target native species, like White Sturgeon and Rainbow Trout, as well as remove invasive species, so only mature Chinook are collected.

Beach seines are safer than other nets, like gillnets, as they herd the fish rather than entangling them, leading to a high post-release survival rate. This makes beach seines the preferred method for research and broodstock collection.