

# Identifying good practices for considering Indigenous Knowledge in Rebuilding Plan targets and stock assessment reference points



Conservation  
and  
Stewardship



Kennedy Lake. Photo credit: Ha'oom Fisheries Society.

Analytical methods for identifying reference points have been developed for Pacific salmon based on Western science, but these have not considered Indigenous Knowledge Systems which has been identified as a gap within recent stock assessments. The *Fisheries Act* enables the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge in management, such as in the development of rebuilding targets and reference points, but there is limited to no precedents for this for Pacific salmon.

This project is co-led with the University of Victoria and the Ha'oom Fisheries Society on the WCVI, with a focus on relationship building and addressing Indigenous needs and values. One output will be developing good practices for knowledge co-production in the development of reference points and rebuilding targets.

Bringing Indigenous knowledge systems and Western science together will lead to more equitable and inclusive assessments and rebuilding plans,

## Take-aways

- Indigenous knowledge includes countless generations of place-based Pacific salmon experience that cannot be recreated or measured.
- Guided by the Eptuaptmumk ("Two-Eyed Seeing") framework, we are partnering with First Nations on the West coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) and University of Victoria to identify rebuilding targets and reference points for Chinook salmon that pair Indigenous Knowledge Systems with Western Science, based on interviews and focus groups with Indigenous Knowledge holders and a review of assessment literature.

supporting the aims of reconciliation and furthering the capacity for Indigenous self-governance. Achieving sustainability of salmon fisheries cannot be achieved through a Western scientific lens alone; incorporating Indigenous Knowledge Systems and a broader perspective on what is considered healthy and serious harm in salmon ecosystems will be essential.



Juvenile suuhaa (Chinook). Photo credit: Ha'oom Fisheries Society.

## Timeline

- ✓ Sep 2023-Mar 2024: research protocols developed; ethics approval
- ✓ Apr-Aug 2024: Review of western science assessment approaches
- ⌚ Sep-Dec 2024: meetings and interviews with Indigenous Knowledge holders
- ⌚ Jan- Sep 2025: Synthesis and write-up

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Location  
**West Coast  
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Collaborations  
**Ha'oom Fisheries  
Society  
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**2397**

Follow the Fish

