

2025 COMPETITION

PREDICTING
SOCKEYE
RETURNS



SOCKEYE INTERNATIONAL

A race to discover mechanisms, predict returns and conserve Sockeye Salmon.

Runs April 15 to June 30, 2025

WHAT IS THE **SALMON PRIZE?**

The **Salmon Prize** is a competition to see which team* can best predict the returns of salmon.

In 2025 we want to see how well our research teams can predict Sockeye returns for 14 runs across three major systems:

- One run of the Columbia River
- Five runs of the Fraser River
- Eight runs from Bristol Bay



**The team that best predicts the
number of returning Sockeye wins!**

* A team can be one brilliant mind with a new way of seeing our fisheries, or a focused team of folks from the fields of fisheries, artificial intelligence, remote sensing, citizen science, or any other field that might improve our ability to predict salmon returns.

WHAT IS IT?

THE COMPETITION



The Salmon Prize



SOCKEYE INTERNATIONAL

HOW WELL CAN YOUR TEAM PREDICT THE RETURN OF 14 SOCKEYE RUNS FROM THREE MAJOR SYSTEMS — COLUMBIA RIVER, FRASER RIVER AND BRISTOL BAY? **\$5,000** IS UP FOR GRABS FOR TEAMS THAT MAKE THE BEST PREDICTIONS!



COMPETITION PERIOD

APR 15 TO JUN 30, 2025

AWARDS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE WASHINGTON-BC CHAPTER CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY IN MARCH, 2026.



SIGN UP HERE

\$100 BONUS

FOR THE FIRST FIVE TEAMS THAT COMPLETE THE COMPETITION

\$5,000 IN PRIZES

HOW WILL YOUR PREDICTIONS BE MEASURED?

Your predictions for the 14 runs in this competition are outlined below and will be judged against the Sockeye return numbers measured by: (i) Org for Columbia River TBD; (ii) Pacific Salmon Commission for Fraser River stocks, and (iii) Org for Bristol Bay TBD. **Run size estimates from these agencies will equal the spawner numbers + catch numbers, and can include management adjustments.**

BRISTOL BAY

1. Alagnak River
2. Egegik River
3. Igushik River
4. Kvichak River
5. Nushagak River
6. Naknek River
7. Ugashik River
8. Wood River

COLUMBIA RIVER

1. Entire Run

FRASER RIVER

1. Chilko River
2. Quesnel River
3. Raft River
4. Stellako River
5. Stuart River (Late Run)

Brood tables for all 14 Sockeye runs can be downloaded at: **SalmonPrize.com**

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Learn more about this competition or sign up! Scan the QR Code or visit **SalmonPrize.com**

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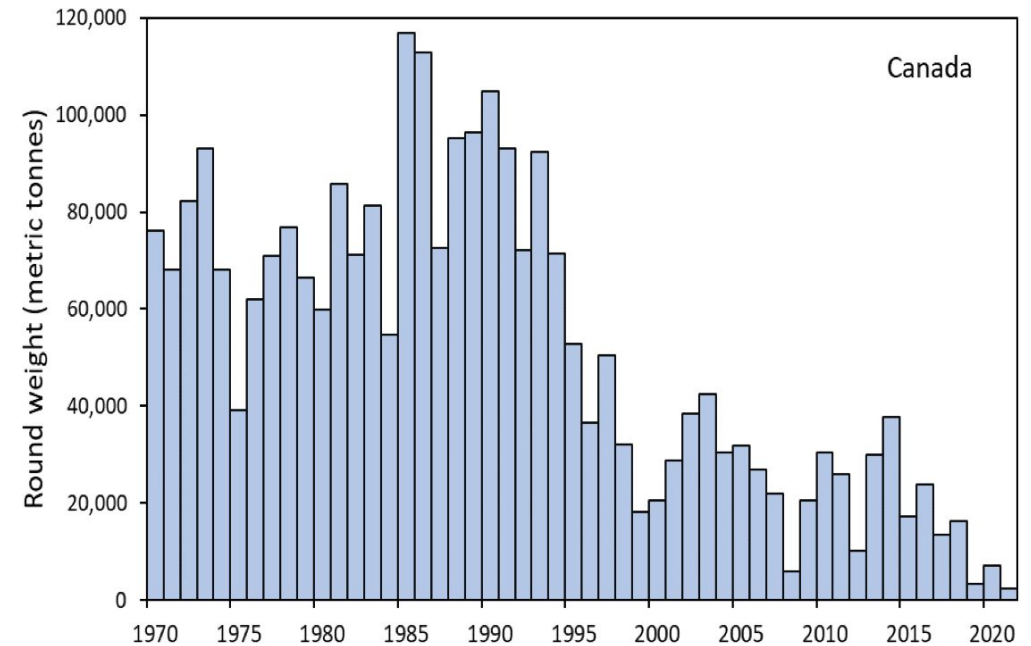


WHY DOES IT MATTER?

THE PROBLEM:

- Our oceans are changing rapidly;
- Many salmon harvests are collapsing;
- Returning salmon are often smaller;
- **If we want to play a meaningful role in the conservation of salmon, we need to improve our ability to predict the returns and better understand the mechanisms that are driving this change.**

This is **our** challenge. We want it to be part of **your challenge** too.



Taken from a presentation at the Washington-BC AFS Chapter meeting, March 20, 2023 in Bellingham, WA. It represents the annual harvest of Pacific salmon in BC.

THE PROBLEM

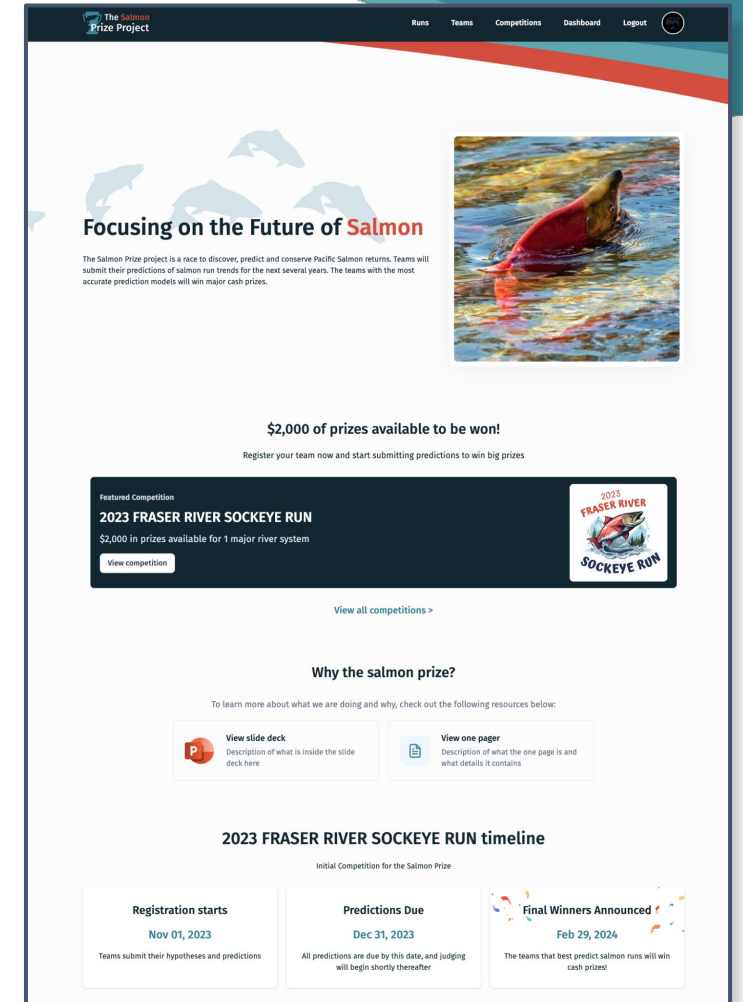
SIGN UP NOW FOR OUR INAUGURAL COMPETITION!

1. Teams register for the competition on **www.SalmonPrize.com**.
2. Teams can enter their predictions **until June 30, 2025**.
3. To qualify, ensure prediction submissions are complete, use **checklist in red**.
4. **Winners** to be announced in March, 2026 at the Washington-BC Chapter meeting of the American Fisheries Society.

* To view the complete rules for the competition, download them from the website at www.SalmonPrize.com

PREDICTIONS MUST INCLUDE:






1. **Total number of returning salmon for all five Sockeye runs.**
2. **Variables used in developing the predictions.**
3. **Abstract of the method used for making the prediction**
4. **Model used to predict the returns.**



HOW DOES IT WORK?

WHAT OUTCOMES ARE WE AIMING FOR?

Over the long term, we hope to achieve:

- New sources of ocean salmon data 
- New discoveries about salmon survival 
- Better parameters to model salmon survival 
- Increased accuracy of salmon return predictions 
- Finding pathways that integrate new technologies 

NEW OUTCOMES

ADVISORS

ORIGINAL FOUR:

The idea originally emerged in the winter of 2023, leading up to the Washington-BC chapter conference of the American Fisheries Society. At the conference four people met to discuss the concept:

- Richard Beamish, Scientist Emeritus, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Kurt Miller, Northwest Public Power Association
- Josh Murauskas, Coosa Fish and Wildlife Initiative
- Sean Simmons (Lead), MyCatch by Angler's Atlas

OTHER SUPPORTING SCIENTISTS

In the spring of 2023, the idea was circulated and discussed among many salmon fisheries researchers. Through those discussions several leaders have stepped up to help spread the word, to help recruit teams, and/or to provide advice on this project. This includes, but is not limited to, the following **Salmon Prize** supporters:

- Thomas Buehrens, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Curry Cunningham, Fisheries Professor at University of Alaska
- Ray Hilborn, Fisheries Professor at University of Washington
- Nate Mantua, NOAA Fisheries
- Daniel Schindler, Fisheries Professor at University of Washington
- Carl Walters, Professor Emeritus at University of BC

TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT PLEASE GET IN TOUCH !

Sean Simmons

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