

# How many fish do orca need?

Chinook are the foundation of resident killer-whale diets. Based on orcas' individual caloric needs, researchers have calculated the minimum number of chinook needed to sustain the current populations of resident killer whales.

The **75 southern residents** would need at least **317,000** chinook per year to survive with a diet of only chinook. A recovered population would need at least **554,000\***.

CURRENT POPULATION	<b>317,000</b>
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RECOVERED POPULATION	<b>554,000</b>
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The **307 northern residents** would need at least **1,150,000** chinook per year to survive with a diet of only chinook.

2017 POPULATION	<b>1,150,000</b>
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Based on preliminary data in 2018, **871,292** chinook were caught in all commercial, tribal, sport fisheries from Alaska to Oregon.

2018 CATCH	<b>258,072</b>	<b>360,354</b>	<b>252,866</b>	<b>871,292 total</b>
	from Alaska	from Canada	from WA/OR	

*\*Based on Williams, Rob, et. al, projection of a 75% increase in diet need.*

*Sources: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Pacific Salmon Commission, Williams, Rob, et. al, "Competing Conservation Objectives for Predators and Prey: Estimating Killer Whale Prey Requirements for Chinook Salmon," PlosOne*

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