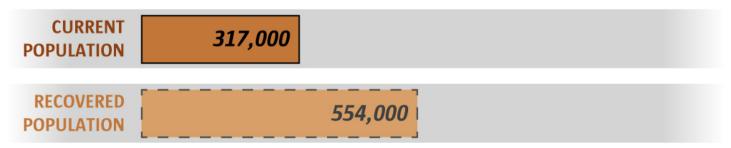
How many fish do orca need?

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***.



The **307** northern residents would need at least **1,150,000** chinook per year to survive with a diet of only chinook.



Based on preliminary data in 2018, 871,292 chinook were caught in all commercial, tribal, sport fisheries from Alaska to Oregon.



^{*}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