

The Complexity of Chinook Salmon in the Early Marine Environment

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Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in the Pacific Northwest exhibit a wide range of life history patterns, with variability in many phenotypic characteristics, that have important impacts in brood year survival rates. This complexity is continued during their early marine rearing phase in the Strait of Georgia, with alternate life-history types occupying different strata within the water column and displaying differences in size and diet. These aspects are discussed in the context of current marine survival trends for the different life history strategies.