

1 **Title:** Phenological shifts and mismatch with marine productivity vary among Pacific salmon species and
2 populations

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33 **Abstract**

34 Global climate change is shifting the timing of life-cycle events, sometimes resulting in
35 phenological mismatches between predators and prey. While phenological shifts and subsequent
36 mismatches may be consistent across populations, they could instead vary unpredictably across
37 populations within the same species. For anadromous Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.),
38 juveniles from thousands of locally-adapted populations migrate from diverse freshwater habitats
39 to the Pacific Ocean every year. Both the timing of freshwater migration and ocean arrival,
40 relative to nearshore prey (phenological match/mismatch), can control marine survival and
41 population dynamics. Here, we examined phenological change of 66 populations across six
42 anadromous Pacific salmon species throughout their range in western North America with the
43 longest time series spanning 1951 - 2019. We show that different salmon species have different
44 rates of phenological change, but that there was substantial within-species variation that was not
45 correlated with changing environmental conditions or geographic patterns. Moreover,
46 outmigration phenologies have not tracked shifts in the timing of marine primary productivity,
47 potentially increasing the frequency of future phenological mismatches. Understanding
48 population responses to mismatches with prey are an important part of characterizing overall
49 population-specific climate vulnerability.

51 **Main text***Introduction*

52 Shifts in the timing of life-history events, or phenology, are some of the most pervasive
53 ecological impacts of climate change^{1,2}. The magnitude and direction of phenological responses
54 to climate change differ among species³, life histories^{4,5}, and trophic levels⁶⁻⁸. Such differing
55 rates of phenological change decrease the magnitude of overlap in species interactions⁹, which
56 can reduce the fitness and survival of consumers, if the timing of important consumer life history
57 events becomes decoupled from their prey (i.e., match/mismatch hypothesis)¹⁰⁻¹³. Thus,
58 consumers that track prey phenology should be less vulnerable to this dimension of climate
59 change. To date, the focus of the field of phenological change and mismatch has been on species-
60 specific phenological shifts^{1,8}, whereas intra-specific diversity in phenological change and
61 mismatch remains poorly described¹⁴. Yet intra-specific diversity is foundational for species
62 resilience to anthropogenic stressors like climate change¹⁵. Specifically, inter-population
63 variation in phenology and thus mismatch could provide response diversity¹⁵ to climate change
64 and thus resilience and stability to the aggregate (e.g., metapopulation). Within a given
65 population, higher variability in phenology may lead to increased resilience to shifts in prey
66 phenology as they have a broader window of phenological expression and increased likelihood
67 of continued overlap with prey¹⁶. Thus, understanding inter- and intra-specific variation in
68 phenological change and mismatch remains a key challenge for identifying species- and
69 population- level vulnerability to global change.

70 Every year, hundreds of billions of juvenile Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) migrate
71 from freshwater environments to the ocean, and their survival can depend upon how well their
72 timing of ocean arrival aligns with peak prey abundance¹⁷⁻¹⁹. Despite this common challenge,
73 Pacific salmon occupy a vast diversity of freshwater habitats ranging from warm arid regions of

74 California to the Arctic Circle, requiring seaward migrations of tens to thousands of kilometers
75 from inland spawning streams. Consequently, there exists remarkable intra-specific diversity in
76 local adaptations, life histories, and phenology^{20,21}. The timing of juvenile salmon emigration
77 varies greatly across populations and can depend upon both heritable and plastic traits²² that
78 respond to species- and population-specific proximate and ultimate cues, including temperature,
79 photoperiod, barometric pressure, and flow rates²³. Both peak outmigration timing and within-
80 population phenological diversity of Pacific salmon may be changing as a result of climate
81 change³. Indeed, climate change may be impacting the freshwater conditions that cue salmon
82 emigration timing, such as water temperatures, differently than the marine conditions that control
83 phenologies of marine prey (e.g., boreal copepods, euphausiids, larval fish)^{7,24,25}. Differential
84 rates of change between salmon ocean arrival and prey availability could lead to phenological
85 mismatches which could impact salmon marine survival and population productivity^{17,19,26}. It is
86 unclear if juvenile salmon outmigration timing is keeping pace with changes in marine prey
87 phenology across their range^{3,27,28}.

88 Here we quantify change in smolt outmigration phenologies and potential temporal
89 mismatches with marine prey for culturally, ecologically, and economically important Pacific
90 salmon. Our goal was to quantify phenological change across populations from all five species of
91 anadromous and semelparous Pacific salmon in western North America as well as steelhead trout
92 (*O. mykiss*), determine whether phenological shifts could be predicted based on key biological,
93 environmental, or geographic variables known to impact salmon outmigration phenology^{29,30},
94 and examine the possibility of increasing phenological mismatches through time. We compiled
95 and analyzed a unique dataset on smolt outmigration phenology containing data from 66
96 populations (where population is considered a unique site-species combination) spanning 18

97 degrees latitude (~3500 km) from Alaska to Oregon, for a time series ranging between 1951 to
98 2019 (a combined 1858 years of data). We paired this dataset with the spring phenology of
99 coastal Pacific Ocean primary productivity, as derived from satellite-inferred chlorophyll-a
100 concentration (SeaWiFS, MODIS-A).

101 *Results*

102 ***Changes in smolt outmigration phenology***

103 To determine the rate of phenological change for each population, we modelled yearly
104 smolt emigration peak timing and temporal range (the number of days between the 25th and 75th
105 percentile) and determined the rate of change for each metric across the timespan of the data (20
106 years minimum). A sensitivity analysis revealed that the 20-year minimum time series was
107 sufficient to capture trends (Extended Data Fig. 1, Supplementary Information 1.1). Using a
108 hierarchical state-space model framework, we estimated the peak outmigration date and its rate
109 of change across years separately for each population. Seventeen site-specific variables (e.g.,
110 distance to the ocean, rate of spring temperature change) were used to determine if any variables
111 correlated with the rate of change of smolt phenologies. We also examined how the temporal
112 range in outmigration changed across years, to test the possibility that the outmigration range
113 was narrowing (Fig. 1).

114 Some species exhibited high rates of phenological change in peak timing, while others did
115 not change substantially over the observed period (Fig. 1). Chum (*O. keta*) and pink (*O.*
116 *gorbuscha*) salmon, which emigrate soon after emergence, had the fastest average rate of
117 advancement in outmigration timing (mean = 7.8 days/decade and 5 days/decade earlier,
118 respectively; Fig. 1). Coho salmon and steelhead trout, which generally spend one or more years

119 in freshwater after emergence, had much lower average rates of peak change (mean = 0.1
120 days/decade and 0.5 days/decade earlier, respectively).

121 Other than species, no other environmental factors clearly and consistently correlated with
122 shifts in peak change. Comparison of weighted linear regressions demonstrated that the most
123 parsimonious model included species, trap elevation, and an interaction between species and trap
124 elevation (Extended Data Table 1). In this model, there was a significant effect of trap elevation
125 and interaction between trap elevation and species on the rate of change in peak outmigration.
126 The relationship between trap elevation and peak change for Chinook was positive (0.997
127 days/decade later for every increase in 1 unit $\log(m)$) whereas relationship between trap
128 elevation and peak change for steelhead was negative (-0.377 days/decade earlier for every
129 increase in 1 unit of $\log(m)$) (Extended Data Fig. 2). Despite the significance of the interaction
130 between trap elevation and species, these variables contributed little predictive power. Cross
131 validation showed that the species-only model had the same root mean square error (RMSE =
132 0.30) as the model with species, trap elevation, and an interaction (RMSE = 0.30) indicating that
133 the additional variable did not increase the predictive power. Thus, we discovered that, across
134 their North American range, different salmon species have different average rates of
135 phenological change which were not strongly associated with measured factors.

136 We discovered higher variation in phenological change within species than among species,
137 with intra-specific variation accounting for 60% of the total variation among populations,
138 whereas inter-specific variation accounted for 40% (Fig. 2). Overall, 46 of the 66 observed
139 salmon populations were emigrating earlier with 16 of those being statistically significant (95%
140 confidence intervals did not span 0). As a result, average spring migration phenology was
141 becoming earlier by 1.4 days/decade across all populations but was highly variable in both the

142 magnitude and direction of shifts within species. For example, while on average coho salmon did
143 not exhibit any substantial phenological changes in outmigration timing (mean = 0.1
144 days/decade), 17 of 26 populations were trending towards advancing phenology, whereas 9
145 populations had the opposite pattern in phenology. Thus, while there were species-level patterns,
146 perhaps due to different intrinsic or extrinsic drivers of migration timing, there was even greater
147 fine-scale population variation in migratory phenological change.

148 The two species with the greatest diversity of life histories – steelhead trout and Chinook
149 salmon – showed the greatest reduction in breadth of timing of migration. Specifically, steelhead
150 trout and Chinook salmon exhibited changes in smolt outmigration range (Fig. 1), of which 11 of
151 15 steelhead trout populations (8 significantly), and 5 of 9 Chinook salmon populations (4
152 significantly) were trending narrower.

153 *Phenological mismatch in juvenile salmon with prey*

154 We paired our smolt outmigration phenology dataset with satellite-derived estimates of
155 spring phytoplankton phenology (SeaWiFS, MODIS-A; chlorophyll-a) to quantify the potential
156 mismatch between salmon and the phenology of ocean prey. Trophic dynamics in the North
157 Pacific are largely driven by bottom-up forcings³¹. As such, phytoplankton phenology was used
158 as a proxy for salmon phenology. We compared the rate of change in peak smolt outmigration
159 phenology between 1999 – 2019 to the rate of change in the spring phytoplankton bloom across
160 the 20-year time span, in each corresponding coastal region, to determine if there were any
161 phenological mismatches (Fig. 3). Phenological mismatches appear to be growing in the
162 Northern California Current, driven by the spring phytoplankton bloom becoming earlier relative
163 to smolt migration (Fig. 3, Extended Data Figure 3). But these regional patterns in phenological
164 mismatch were not significant (95% confidence interval of the difference in the rate of change

165 spans 0, where 0 indicates that salmon and phytoplankton phenology are shifting at the same
166 rate; Fig. 3). In fact, while both the spring phytoplankton bloom and salmon populations have
167 exhibited phenological shifts over the 20-year period (Extended Data Fig. 3), there was little
168 correlation between them (correlation = 0.17), indicating that salmon outmigration timing is not
169 tracking shifts in spring primary productivity. For example, salmon often had phenologies that
170 were shifting while the corresponding spring phytoplankton bloom in their region was not
171 shifting (Fig. 3, Extended Data Figure 3). Where phytoplankton phenologies were changing,
172 more salmon are lagging behind spring phytoplankton phenological change rather than outpacing
173 it. Specifically, 13 of 60 populations had substantially increasing temporal mismatches (greater
174 than 8 days per decade difference in the rate of phenological shifts between 1999 – 2019)
175 throughout our truncated time series, with salmon outmigration phenology of 12 populations
176 lagging behind the advancement of the spring phytoplankton bloom, and the remaining
177 population outpacing the spring phytoplankton bloom. Our study indicates that salmon
178 outmigrations are not tracking changes in phytoplankton phenology, a potential harbinger of
179 future phenological mismatches and decreased marine survival under climate change.

180 *Discussion*

181 Here we reveal that the impacts of climate change are manifesting differently among
182 populations within economically- and culturally-important migratory fish. In fact, while there
183 were differences across species, idiosyncratic intra-specific diversity comprised the majority of
184 variation in phenological change. The outmigration phenology of juvenile salmon relative to
185 ocean prey can determine growth and survival in the early marine period¹⁷⁻¹⁹, and declines in
186 marine survival have been implicated in collapses of many populations and their associated
187 fisheries³². While population-level response diversity in the face of global change could increase

188 species resilience, unpredictable changes could complicate broad assessments of climate
189 vulnerability and prescriptive management of populations.

190 Peak outmigration phenology changed at different rates across species, a result consistent
191 with smaller-scale studies of salmon outmigration phenology^{3,27,28}. Chum and pink salmon
192 shifted their peak phenology more quickly than other species. However, chum and pink salmon
193 were represented by a small number of sample sites due to limited funds for expensive long term
194 monitoring programs. Despite the small sample sizes, individual chum populations had higher
195 rates of change than individual populations within other species, indicative of species-level
196 increased rates of phenological shifts. The deficiency in data collection on pink and chum
197 salmon limits understanding of climate change-driven impacts on these widely distributed and
198 important species. While pink and chum salmon had shifting phenologies, on average coho
199 salmon phenologies were not shifting, consistent with previous studies. For example, peak
200 outmigration timing of Auke Creek, Alaska odd-year pink salmon advanced by 4.9 days/decade³,
201 whereas peak outmigration of Auke Creek coho salmon did not change over a 37-year period.
202 Thus, we discovered that, across their North American range, different salmon species have
203 different average rates of phenological change.

204 A combination of changes in environmental cues, shifts in life history, and genetic
205 selection could be driving these species-specific shifts in smolt migration timing^{22,33}. For
206 example, because pink and chum salmon migrate to the ocean soon after hatching, their
207 outmigration phenologies are tightly related to both freshwater incubation temperatures and
208 shifts in adult migration/spawn timing²⁷. Warmer overwinter incubation temperatures could lead
209 to earlier outmigration timing in the spring. In addition to shifts in life history, other plastic
210 responses to environmental change, or genetic selection due to freshwater or marine survival

211 could also result in changes in migration timing. For instance, because pink and chum salmon
212 have smaller juveniles that feed on lower trophic level prey than other salmon, they are likely to
213 be more strongly impacted by shifts in marine zooplankton phenology and so may be subject to
214 stronger selection on outmigration timing in the early marine life stage²⁶.

215 Despite species-specific shifting in outmigration timing, much of the variation in shifts in
216 outmigration timing remained unexplained. Of the 17 watershed-level characteristics we tested,
217 only species was a strong predictor of population-level phenological change. Ice-off date, water
218 temperature, photoperiod, among other factors have all been correlated to smolt outmigration
219 timing within individual populations²⁰. However, proxies such as air temperature and latitude
220 were not correlated across populations. It is likely that watershed complexity, local adaptations,
221 and different local manifestations of climate change create response diversity that cannot be
222 predicted by these data¹⁵. For example, in response to warming temperatures, most, but not all,
223 populations had earlier outmigration timing. For 84% of populations, the slope of relationship
224 between annual peak and mean air temperature three months before migration was negative
225 while for the other 16% of populations the slope was positive, demonstrating that most
226 populations have earlier migrations in warm years, but a few had later migrations in warm years
227 (Fig. 4). Thus, a similar change in temperature could cause phenological shifts of different
228 magnitudes and directions across populations, a form of response diversity to climate warming.
229 This suggests that while phenology and phenological change of well-studied populations could
230 be predicted^{3,27}, those results are unlikely to generalize across populations or species.
231 Phenological change is generally studied at the population level, but too commonly reported as a
232 species-level change, neglecting potential local drivers of population variability¹⁴. Furthermore,
233 management often relies on indicator populations which are thought to be representative of other

234 populations of the same species, however, our results suggest that indicator populations may not
235 represent phenological changes in other populations. Our results reveal that broad-scale climate
236 change will manifest unpredictably in species with a high degree of local adaptation that use
237 diverse habitats, such as Pacific salmon.

238 The range in outmigration timing decreased in Chinook salmon and steelhead trout,
239 indicating lost phenological diversity. This lost diversity could be driven by changing freshwater
240 cues, selection against early or late migrants, or loss of life-history diversity³ due to habitat
241 contraction, decreased population abundance, and hatchery practices³⁴. Indeed, abundance of
242 many populations of steelhead trout and Chinook salmon has decreased dramatically over the
243 observed period³² and populations have suffered widespread non-random habitat losses³⁴. For
244 example, headwater streams are more likely to become disconnected or lost from the watershed,
245 leading to a loss of diverse populations that depend on that habitat³⁴. Furthermore, hatchery
246 propagation could erode diversity; we excluded hatchery-origin fish and focused on datasets
247 enumerating natural-origin (unmarked) fish, given clearer linkages to environmental change.
248 However, adult hatchery-origin fish that spawned naturally in the wild produce natural-origin
249 juveniles encountered in some of the study populations. Widespread hatchery propagation can
250 alter genetic variation and outmigration timing³⁵. Human activities that decrease phenological
251 diversity and narrow the outmigration window are likely to erode population-level resilience to
252 phenological shifts in marine prey by increasing the likelihood of mismatches³⁶.

253 Using satellite-derived chlorophyll-a as a proxy for ocean productivity, we showed that
254 salmon are shifting their phenologies independently from the spring marine phytoplankton
255 bloom, which could lead to future phenological mismatches. While satellite derived chlorophyll-
256 a can be used to estimate the timing of phytoplankton productivity, it cannot differentiate

257 between phytoplankton species and is up to several trophic levels removed from salmon prey.
258 Preferred prey of juvenile salmon differs across ocean ecosystems, estuaries, and species. For
259 example, pink and chum salmon, which enter estuaries at smaller sizes tend to eat large
260 zooplankton, while steelhead trout, which enter estuaries at larger sizes tend to eat larval fish,
261 decapod larvae, and euphausiids³⁷. Regardless, the timing of the spring phytoplankton bloom
262 indicates the onset of primary productivity that cascades upward through trophic levels, to the
263 zooplankton, ichthyoplankton, and larval fish that collectively compose juvenile salmon diets
264 ^{37,38}. Indeed, the timing of the coastal ocean phytoplankton bloom can impact population
265 productivity in pink salmon²⁶ and timing of zooplankton biomass peak can impact survival of
266 coho salmon¹⁷ and steelhead trout¹⁹. Thus, timing of the phytoplankton bloom can be indicative
267 of phenological mismatch between juvenile Pacific salmon and their prey which can influence
268 marine survival, recruitment, and population productivity^{17,19,26}.

269 Here we show that populations are changing their phenology at different and unpredictable
270 rates. This lack of predictability in population-level responses is likely driven by complex local
271 manifestations of broad-scale climate patterns such as differences in local adaptations, life
272 histories, or unassessed natal watershed characteristics. With sufficient investment in monitoring
273 and management, a more place-based management strategy, with a strong focus on life-history
274 traits and demographic trends in individual populations, could increase the likelihood of
275 detecting and managing for climate driven changes for specific populations³⁹. Yet, these findings
276 also suggest that the specific predictions that come from well-monitored indicator populations
277 may not be transferable to other populations. Therefore, management systems of salmon will
278 need to be robust to unpredictable population responses to climate change. Conservation
279 approaches that promote response diversity, such as conservation of the diverse genetics, life-

280 histories, and habitats, will foster resilience in this era of ongoing climate change^{36,40}. While
281 globally coherent patterns of climate-driven phenological shifts reshuffle species interactions,
282 local manifestations of climate change may be quite unpredictable as complex systems evolve
283 and adapt.

284

285 **Methods**

286 *Smolt migration datasets*

287 Pacific salmon smolts are monitored annually throughout their range in North America, from
288 Alaska to California, with smolts counted as they emigrate from natal freshwater rearing
289 watersheds before entering the ocean. Smolts generally emigrate from rearing lakes, rivers, and
290 streams during the spring or fall, after spending between several weeks to several years in
291 freshwater. Federal, State, Provincial, and Indigenous governments in the United States and
292 Canada, as well as community groups, have been monitoring smolt emigration since the mid-
293 1950s. These monitoring programs intercept and enumerate smolts during the migration season,
294 using a variety of techniques such as full fence weirs, in which all fish were counted, or using
295 mark-recapture methods where a subset of fish were captured in traps (e.g., inclined plane trap,
296 floating trap, rotary screw trap) or seines, and marked, released, and captured again to determine
297 abundance. Here, we collated data from 41 sites representing six species (66 site-species
298 combinations or populations) of natural-origin (predominantly wild/unmarked), spring
299 emigrating Pacific salmon populations that had been monitored for >20 years, primarily seeking
300 those that had limited hatchery influence, and counted natural-origin smolts separately from
301 hatchery produced smolts (1858 cumulative years across all sites and species). We refer to each

302 unique site-species combination as a population throughout the manuscript, but recognize that
303 some site-species combinations, particularly those at river mouths represent metapopulations,
304 while those in the headwaters may represent partial populations.

305 *Measuring population- specific phenological shifts*

306 We modeled annual emigration for each population to identify peak and breadth of outmigration
307 (i.e. peak width), and simultaneously fit a trend in peak day through time. In some populations,
308 multiple juvenile life history forms with unique outmigration timing had been previously
309 described (e.g. ocean type fry that migrate soon after hatching vs. river type smolts that migrate
310 to the ocean more than a year after emerging), and so we provide separate estimates for them
311 based on a date cut-off. Thus, several sites have two peaks described, one for each life history
312 type. For each species and site, log daily abundance (either as raw counts, or as mark-recapture
313 expanded estimates, depending on capture methodology and which count was believed to be the
314 best estimate of abundance) for each year was modeled throughout the migration window using
315 one of four state-space hierarchical models. We used state-space models to distinguish a data or
316 observation model from the latent phenological trend. We considered four alternative process
317 models for each dataset. Our simplest model used a normal approximation to describe the shape
318 of the outmigration distribution.

$$f(x) = normal(\mu, \sigma_x) \quad \text{eq (1)}$$

319 Second, we used a Student-t distribution, which differs from the normal distribution in that when
320 the degrees of freedom parameter is small, the Student-t distribution can have more extreme tails.

$$f(x) = Student-t(\mu, v, \sigma_x) \quad \text{eq (2)}$$

321 Application of either the normal or Student-t models assumes symmetry in the distribution of
322 outmigration before and after the peak. As a third model, we relaxed the assumption of
323 symmetry and used a double normal distribution as a process model. The double normal
324 distribution is widely used in fisheries to model quantities like selectivity⁴¹. This distribution
325 involves fitting two truncated normal distributions, joined by a common mean, but allowed to
326 have different variances.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} normal(\mu, \sigma_{x_1}), & x < \mu \\ normal(\mu, \sigma_{x_2}), & x > \mu \end{cases} \quad \text{eq (3)}$$

327 For the purposes of our application, this translates to the shape of outmigration before and after
328 peak to be different. Finally, as a fourth model, we extended the double normal concept to a
329 double Student-t distribution. This double Student-t differed from the double normal in allowing
330 both the variance and degrees of freedom to differ between pre- and post- peak curves.

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} Student - t(\mu, v_1, \sigma_{x_1}), & x < \mu \\ Student - t(\mu, v_2, \sigma_{x_2}), & x > \mu \end{cases} \quad \text{eq (4)}$$

331

332 Equations (1-4) describe process models fit to daily smolt abundance in a single year,
333 modeled by a distribution with a peak μ , and variance σ_x . Because each dataset in our analysis
334 includes multiple years, the means, variances, and degrees of freedom v in these equations can
335 be further subscripted by year, allowing the parameters to change through time. For simplicity,
336 we did not consider time-varying degrees of freedom for the Student-t or double Student-t model
337 in equations (2) and (4). For the mean and variance parameters, we considered two hierarchical
338 models. First, we developed models that allowed the means and standard deviations to be
339 estimated as random effects,

$$\ln(\mu_y) \sim \text{normal}(\ln(\mu_0), \sigma_\mu) \quad \text{eq (5)}$$

$$\ln(\sigma_y) \sim \text{normal}(\ln(\sigma_0), \gamma_\sigma) \quad \text{eq (6)}$$

340 where $\ln(\mu_y)$ is the log of the peak location parameter in year y , μ_0 is the estimated global mean
 341 across years, and σ_μ is the variation in peak dates. For the variance model, we also modeled
 342 random effects in log space so that σ_y is the standard deviation in year y (for example for models
 343 1 – 2 above), $\ln(\sigma_0)$ is the mean shape parameter, and γ_σ is the standard deviation among shape
 344 parameters. Because both trends are modeled in log space, these can be interpreted as
 345 exponential change in normal space. Treating either the means μ_y or variance parameters σ_y
 346 hierarchically assumes that these parameters are drawn from a common distribution.

347 While these random effects models are flexible, the focus of our inference is estimating
 348 phenological shifts, so we evaluated a separate series of random effect models that include trends
 349 in the mean and variance of these distributions,

$$\mu_y \sim \text{normal}(\mu_0 + \beta_\mu \cdot v, \sigma_\mu) \quad \text{eq (7)}$$

$$\ln(\sigma_y) \sim \text{normal}(\ln(\sigma_0) + \beta_\sigma \cdot v, \gamma_\sigma) \quad \text{eq (8)}$$

350 All other parameters are as before, but the inclusion of β_μ and β_σ allows for linear trends in the
 351 location and shape of these distributions through time. Equations 7 – 8 describe changes for
 352 symmetric models with a single variance parameter (equations 1 – 2 above) – our models for
 353 asymmetric distributions allowed the pre- and post-peak shape parameters to have different
 354 estimated trends.

355 All models were fit separately to each dataset using maximum likelihood approaches,
 356 implemented in Template Model Builder⁴² and R⁴³. We used Akaike's Information Criterion
 357 (AIC⁴⁴) to identify models most supported by the data. In a few cases, the models did not

358 converge (generally because of too many missing years) and were excluded from consideration.
359 We summarized output from these best fit models by computing the quartiles of the distribution
360 in each year (the dates when 25% and 75% of fish had been counted), from now on we refer to
361 the number of days between the 25th and 75th quartiles as the range of the data for each year. The
362 annual trend in peak width was modeled in a separate weighted linear model, where weight was
363 assigned based on the inverse square of the variance.

364 *Patterns in phenological shifts*

365 We examined geographic, environmental, and biological variables for correlation with rate of
366 change in peak outmigration phenology. Geographic variables were selected based upon prior
367 research linking variables to phenology^{29,30,35}, and were determined from ArcGIS using 30 m
368 rasters and delineated watersheds. These variables included latitude of the trap, distance to the
369 ocean (distance between trap and the ocean in km following river polylines), trap elevation and
370 mean and maximum elevation of watershed above the smolt trap (in m), gradient (elevation of
371 trap divided by distance to the ocean), and watershed area above the smolt trap (in km²).

372 Environmental variables included the rates of minimum, mean, and maximum air temperature
373 and precipitation change between the first year of monitoring and 2013 (see Table S1 in
374 supplementary information). Water temperatures were not available throughout the range of our
375 sites, but water temperature and air temperature over open water are highly correlated and thus
376 air temperatures can roughly approximate water temperature conditions⁴⁵. Air temperature and
377 precipitation were calculated using the program ClimateNA (v.5.21)⁴⁶. Briefly, latitude,
378 longitude and elevation were estimated for random points that were placed in each watershed (1
379 for every 2 km² of watershed area, with points placed at least 500 m apart) using GIS.

380 Watersheds were delineated using GIS with the trap as the outlet point. Latitude, longitude, and

381 elevation for each point were used by ClimateNA to extrapolate monthly minimum, mean, and
382 maximum air temperature and precipitation. We then averaged each variable for the summer
383 (July to September; growing season), fall (October to December; spawning), winter (December
384 to February; incubation), and premigration period (3 months before peak outmigration for each
385 population) for each year. Using a linear model approach, we determined rate of change as the
386 slope of the relationship between seasonal variable (temperature or precipitation) across years.

387 Biological variables included species and a categorical variable describing scale of local hatchery
388 production. Species grouped all populations, no matter their age group, into one species.

389 Hatchery influence was determined using a scale where 0 indicated no hatchery in the watershed,
390 no history of hatchery influence, and the nearest hatchery was in a distant basin > 100 km away;

391 Category 1 had no current hatchery production of the target species in the watershed, but either
392 (a) hatchery production in a nearby watershed < 100 km away allowing for a low level of

393 hatchery-origin strays, (b) some within basin hatchery production of the target species in the
394 distant past (e.g., > 25 years ago), or both (a) and (b); Category 2 had ongoing, within basin

395 hatchery production of the target species in which natural-origin fish typically outnumbered
396 hatchery-origin fish on the spawning grounds (proportion of Hatchery Origin Spawners [pHOS]

397 < 50%), and/or the number of natural-origin juveniles were comparable to, or greater than, the
398 number of juveniles released from the hatchery. All or nearly all hatchery-origin fish were

399 marked. Conservation hatchery programs employing a high proportion of natural-origin

400 broodstock would likely be in this category; Category 3: Long history (multiple decades) of

401 large-scale hatchery production in which hatchery-origin fish routinely outnumbered hatchery

402 origin fish on the spawning grounds (i.e., pHOS > 50%), and/or the number of fish released from

403 hatcheries was considerably greater than the number of natural-origin juveniles. Marking of

404 hatchery-origin fish allows for assessment of hatchery demographics compared to natural
405 population demographics.

406 We compared weighted linear models containing key geographic (e.g., latitude of the capture
407 location, distance between the capture location and the ocean, watershed area), environmental
408 (e.g., rate of change of mean, minimum, and maximum seasonal air temperatures, and
409 precipitation) and biological (e.g., species, scale of hatchery influence) variables. Linear models
410 were weighted by the inverse of the variance in estimated rate of peak change, such that
411 populations with higher variance in peak change estimate were weighted less than those with
412 lower variance. Since species could be responding differently, we included interactions between
413 species and other predictor variables. For the rare cases when traps were upstream of other traps,
414 and therefore fish could be counted twice, we excluded the upstream trap from the analysis. This
415 impacted only a few locations, and results did not differ if all populations or only mainstem
416 populations were used. All populations were considered independent because most populations
417 were the only monitored population in the watershed, so random effects models could not be fit.
418 Apart from an interaction between species identity and trap elevation, no other variables or
419 interactions explained variability in the rate of change in peak smolt outmigration timing
420 (Extended Data Table 1, Extended Data Fig. 2). Post hoc comparison of rates of change of
421 species showed on coho and chum salmon were changing at significantly different rates
422 (Extended Data Table 2). We evaluated predictive performance of the top models using Monte
423 Carlo cross-validation where the models were trained on 90% of the dataset and tested on the
424 remaining 10%. This was completed 1000 times (each iteration assigning at random 90% of
425 observations to the training set and 10% of observations to the test set). The overall RMSE was
426 calculated by averaging the RMSE values from the 1000 test sets.

427 We examined time series length to determine how time series length may influence rate of peak
428 change. A sensitivity analysis revealed that the 20-year minimum time series was sufficient to
429 capture trends (Extended Data Fig. 1, Supplementary Information 1.1). We found no evidence to
430 support an effect of time series length on rate of change in peak (Extended Data Table 3,
431 Extended Data Figure 4) or evidence that different biological or environmental correlates
432 impacted rate of peak change determined using the truncated time series (Extended Data Table
433 4).

434 We quantified within and across population variation, using an intercept-only random effects
435 model which included species as a random effect to compare variance that was explained by all
436 species vs. total residual variance (variance of the species intercept divided by the sum of the
437 species intercept and individual population residual variance estimate, multiplied by 100)
438 (*sensu*⁴⁷). A value close to 100 suggests that among-species variation explains almost all of the
439 total variation, such that two populations from the same species are likely to be more similar than
440 two individuals from different species. A value near zero suggests that the among-species
441 variation is relatively low, such that two populations from different species are equally likely to
442 be similar than two populations from the same species.

443 *Satellite-derived Chlorophyll a*

444 Remote-sensing satellite-derived chlorophyll-a concentration (mg/m^3) estimates were used as a
445 proxy for salmon prey phenology. We used level-3 processed daily global composites ($9 \text{ km} \times 9$
446 km) of surface chlorophyll-a concentration from two satellites, Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view
447 Sensor (SeaWiFS; 1999 - 2010) and the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer
448 (MODIS-Aqua; 2003 - 2019) from the Goddard Space Flight Center
449 (<http://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov>). Global daily composites were subset to $29 \text{ } 2^\circ \times 2^\circ$ grid cells

450 along the coast between 42 – 60°N, 161.5 – 124.5°W (Extended Data Fig. 5). We concatenated
451 daily composites into 8-day composites to limit missing data due to clouds. Finally, the 8-day
452 composite surface chlorophyll-a concentration estimates for each 9 km × 9 km pixel were
453 averaged to create an 8-day average for each grid cell. For overlapping years between 2003 –
454 2010, we compared 8-day average chlorophyll-a for each grid cell between SeaWiFS and
455 MODIS-Aqua. Coefficients for grid cells were consistent with other studies^{26,48}. Therefore, for
456 the overlapping years we used the average of composites from both satellites. Satellite
457 chlorophyll-a estimates generally correspond with field observations of phytoplankton except
458 during extremely high phytoplankton concentrations, which would not effect our estimate of
459 spring phenology⁴⁹. However, satellite-derived bloom estimates are unable to distinguish
460 between dominant phytoplankton species and may mask divergent or species- specific
461 phytoplankton phenology changes, which have been previously documented²². We used 2° × 2°
462 grid cells, as these regions would encompass a large proportion of the early marine period for
463 salmon (Extended Data Fig. 5). Additionally, coastal regions are prone to high spectral
464 reflectance for SeaWiFS and MODIS-Aqua satellites⁴⁹. Using this method, we created sequential
465 8-day chlorophyll-a concentration estimates from Jan 1 to Aug 1 for 20 years spanning 1999 –
466 2019 for each grid cell.

467 We determined the annual spring phytoplankton bloom for each grid cell, and then calculated the
468 rate of change in the bloom date across years. Spring phytoplankton bloom was defined as the
469 first 8-day composite that was 5% above the annual mean for that grid cell⁵⁰. We used spring
470 phytoplankton phenology as an indicator of the beginning of spring productivity in the ocean,
471 and the initialization of a surge of spring productivity that spans trophic levels. However, trophic
472 levels may have different rates of phenological change, which our approach would not capture^{6,7}.

473 Rate of change in spring phytoplankton bloom date was then determined with a linear model of
474 spring bloom date by year.

475 Changes in smolt outmigration phenology were then determined using only years between 1999
476 – 2019 (corresponding to availability of spring phytoplankton bloom data) (Extended Data Fig
477 5). Only populations with more than 10 years of data were used, as populations with less than
478 this generally did not produce valid estimates of rates of change (see Extended Data Fig. 1). Of
479 the original populations included only 60 populations had greater than 10 years of data collected
480 between 1999 – 2019, as we included present and historic smolt datasets in our data collection.
481 Comparison of shifts in outmigration timing using full vs. truncated datasets can be found in the
482 supplementary information. Each salmon population was paired with the coastal region in which
483 they would enter the ocean (i.e., marine entrance; Table S1).

484 *Ethics and Inclusion Statement*

485 Where necessary, data agreements were formed with data owners to maintain data sovereignty.
486 The formal and informal agreements outlined the data and results sharing aspects of the project.
487 Regardless of data agreements all data contributors (individuals, groups, organizations) were
488 included in the study design phase, development of questions, and interpretation of the results.
489 This was done through written proposals, webinars, and informal and formal written project
490 updates.

491 All data contributors were provided an initial written project proposal and invited to a webinar
492 where the project proposal was presented, and feedback was invited. The project proposal
493 included questions, study design, aim and scope, and outlined expectations for authorship. All
494 data contributors were welcome to authorship, given they met the following criteria: i) provided

495 data and/or ideas or assisted with analyses, ii) provided feedback on proposal through attendance
496 of the webinar and/or written feedback, iii) provided feedback on the manuscript in a timely
497 manner. Regardless of authorship status all data contributors were invited to a final webinar
498 where results were presented, and there was an opportunity for feedback. A final report was
499 distributed to all data contributors which shared analyses, main findings, and plan for
500 publication.

501 When data was collected by Indigenous groups, data sharing agreements were made that
502 respected data ownership/data sovereignty. These also included the mode of knowledge sharing
503 preferred by data owners. Most data for this project were collected under the purview of Federal,
504 Provincial, and State governments. However, we recognize that all of the data used in this project
505 was collected on the traditional ancestral territories of Indigenous Peoples that have used and
506 stewarded salmon for millennia. Increased revitalization of Indigenous-led fisheries programs
507 has begun in the last 10 – 20 years³⁹, but in most cases these programs were too recent (too few
508 years of data) to be included in our analyses.

509 *Data Availability*

510 Data will be available on Github or some other platform (Dryad). Data provided will be
511 summarized yearly peak data and calculated peak change and peak range data.

512 **Code Availability**

513 Model code is available as an R package “phenomix” by Eric Ward on github at “ericward-
514 noaa/phenomix”.

515

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535 **Author Contributions Statement**

536 S.M.W collated data and completed analysis. S.M.W and J.W.M. designed the study and wrote
537 the manuscript. E.J.W. developed models. All authors contributed to data collection and writing.

538 **Competing Interests Statement**

539 The authors declare no competing interests.

540 **Figure Legends**

541

542 Figure 1: Location of smolt enumeration facilities (right) and posterior distribution of the mean
543 shift in outmigration peak phenology (left, top) and breadth of outmigration window (left,
544 bottom) of six species of North American anadromous Pacific salmon (coho = green, pink =
545 pink, chum = blue, steelhead = orange, sockeye = vermillion, Chinook = black). Left top panel:
546 more negative values indicate species phenologies are shifting to be earlier in the year, whereas
547 more positive values are shifting to be later in the year. Left bottom panel: more negative values
548 indicate outmigration distributions of species are becoming narrower, whereas those with more
549 positive values are becoming broader. (1/2 pg; 180 x 115mm)

550 Figure 2: Shift in peak outmigration phenology (left) and change in breadth of outmigration
551 distribution (right) of populations of six species of North American anadromous Pacific salmon
552 (coho = green, chum = blue, steelhead = orange, sockeye age 1+ = vermillion, sockeye age 2+ =
553 dark vermillion, Chinook age 1+ = black, Chinook age 0+ = grey, odd year pink = dark pink,
554 even year pink = light pink). Horizontal lines (error bars) represent 95% confidence interval,
555 points represent mean. Where 95% confidence interval overlaps 0 (vertical dashed line),
556 populations are not significantly changing outmigration date. Populations with more negative
557 values are shifting to be earlier in the year or have narrower range in timing, whereas those with
558 more positive values are shifting to be later in the year/wider outmigration window. Sites ordered
559 by latitude (north to south, top to bottom), more information on sites, including sample size, is
560 located in Table S1. (1/2 pg horizontal; 180 x 115 mm)

561 Figure 3: Differences in the rate of phenological mismatch between the spring phytoplankton
562 bloom and salmon outmigration timing. Where modelled distribution of differences in rates
563 (95% confidence interval) overlaps 0 (vertical dashed line) species phenologies are matching
564 (shifting at the same rate), and departure from 0 indicates differing rates of phenological change
565 and widening mismatch. Negative change ($y < 0$) indicates that either 1) the spring phytoplankton
566 bloom is becoming earlier relative to smolt migration or 2) the smolt outmigration is becoming
567 later relative to the spring phytoplankton bloom, while positive change ($y > 0$) indicates salmon
568 outmigration is getting earlier relative to spring plankton phenology. Colours indicate the salmon
569 species against which the rate of spring phytoplankton bloom phenology change was measured
570 (coho = green, pink = pink, chum = blue, steelhead = orange, sockeye = vermillion, Chinook =
571 black). Sites ordered by latitude (north to south, top to bottom), more information on sites is
572 located in Table S1. (1/4 page vertical, 89 x 125 mm)

573 Figure 4: Response diversity of salmon populations to change in air temperature (in °C). Colours
574 represent species and shade of line represents different populations. Grey shaded region
575 represents 95% confidence region for slope of the relationship between average air temperature
576 three months before migration and annual peak outmigration. A negative slope indicates that

577 peak outmigration timing was earlier in warmer years, where a positive slope indicates peak
578 outmigration was later in warmer years.

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