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38 B.C. sockeye runs endangered: report

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At least 38 sockeye salmon runs along the West Coast are in danger of imminent extinction, says a new report by the Sierra Club of B.C.

The report by salmon biologist Dr. David Levy's blames the declining sockeye runs on mixed-stock fisheries, poor fisheries management as well as climate change.

- [LINK: Full report by Dr David Levy for the Sierra Club \(.pdf\)](#) 

"Probably the most important one is the mixed-stock fishery that operates on the coast, the commercial fishery which intercepts weak stocks along with the stronger stocks that they're targeting on.

"And over time as you keep doing this year after year after year, the weaker stocks get driven down to extremely low numbers."

Levy's report makes a series of recommendations to protect the endangered sockeye runs, including a change in the way fish are caught.

"We need to shift to a fishing system where we harvest the fish in terminal areas. We try to get much more selective about how we obtain the fish."

- [LINK: Sierra Club release](#) 

Levy says he's also concerned that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has cut back on stock assessments and monitoring, so the status of many sockeye runs is unknown.

The Sierra Club also accuses the DFO of ignoring previous warnings about the problem, saying the government has known about the crisis for the past 10 years – but has failed to act.

No one from DFO was available to comment on the report.

- INDEPTH: [Salmon](#)

