

# Scientists find Chinook salmon with environmental DNA

Swim from the mouth of the  
Yukon River to British Columbia  
where your salmon was born!

Start here

As salmon travel upstream they leave fish scales, pee and poop floating in the water! These offerings contain DNA—the code that determines who and what you are.

Our scientists collected water from a number of rivers to find salmon DNA. The DNA tells scientists in which rivers Chinook salmon live.

Usually scientists have to count or catch salmon to find out where they live, but this can be very stressful for the fish. When scientists look for the DNA that is left behind, they don't bother the salmon, which is great because they have a long, long journey to get home.

Knowing where Chinook salmon live helps people make good decisions about land-use and fishing. With this information, people can work together to keep the population healthy.

