

The Warm Water Anomaly aka “The Blob”

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Last week I mentioned the warm water anomaly aka the "blob " as a possible cause for the lack of pinks in what should be their high year on the east coast of Vancouver Island. The Blob at its height stretched from Baja California to and including the gulf of Alaska. It was up to 300 feet deep and extended up to two thousand miles in width. The blob was anywhere from 2 to 8 oF above normal sea water temperatures and lasted for 2 years. In other words it was **HUGE**. Aside from its size and persistence it changed the zooplankton make up that normally existed to ones that weren't as nourishing to juvenile salmon and herring. The warmer waters also encouraged more of the warm water fish species such as tuna and mackerel to venture farther north than usual. Bird die-off in the gulf of Alaska have been noted as well as a spike in sea lion stranding their young along the California coast. One explanation was that they just starved. At present many universities and government scientists are studying its effects but it will probably take about a year before we know how it affected the fish and wild life populations along the U.S. and Canadian Pacific coast.