

Kolarctic CBC – Project KO4178; Conserving our Atlantic salmon as a sustainable resource for people in the North; fisheries and conservation in the context of growing threats and a changing environment.

REPORT III. Summary from the long-term mean monthly river temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures as an index from the changes in juvenile salmon freshwater environment; graphical illustrations from the temperature variations within and between the rivers in Northern Norway and Finland

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<p>REPORT III. Summary from the long-term mean monthly river temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures as an index from the changes in juvenile salmon freshwater environment; graphical illustrations from the temperature variations within and between the rivers in Northern Norway and Finland</p> <p>Niemelä^{1,2}, E., Hassinen^{1,2}, E., Kuusela³, J., Kalske⁴, T.H., Høstmark⁴, M.S.</p> <p><i>¹⁾ University of Turku, Finland</i> <i>²⁾ Firm Olli van der Meer, Oulu; Finland</i> <i>³⁾ Natural Resource Institute Finland (Luke), 99980 Utsjoki, Finland</i> <i>⁴⁾ County Governor of Troms and Finnmark; Vadsø, Norway</i></p>	
<p>Abstract</p> <p>Mean monthly river temperatures in northernmost Norway show simultaneous fluctuations between the rivers, although the rivers are located in large distances from each other. The biggest distance is between the River Alta (in western Finnmark) and the River Grense Jakobselv (in eastern Finnmark). River Alta is one of the coldest rivers early in the summer, June and July, compared to other large rivers. It can be explained by the large and deep-water magazine above the dam bringing cold water into the River Alta early in the summer. While water in the other rivers is getting colder, which is what normally happens towards autumn, water in the River Alta below the reservoir stays warmer for a longer period in September and October.</p> <p>Mean temperatures combining the daily values from the months June, July and August of the rivers in Varanger Peninsula between the rivers from Bergebyelv in the east, to Stordalelv (Berlevåg) in the west, had temperatures of 6.8°C-7.4°C in the year 2020. These rivers represent cold rivers. Warm rivers in eastern Finnmark, from the River Vesterelv in the west to the River Grense Jakobselv in the east, had mean temperatures of 11.3°C -13.3°C. In the River Tana watershed, situating far from the coastal areas, mean summer temperatures in salmon running tributaries varied from 7.7°C to 11.5°C. Summer temperatures in small brooks in the River Tana watershed varied from 6.4°C to 12.2°C, which indicates that the type of brooks are differing from each other. Living conditions in terms of water temperature during winter for juvenile salmon are harsh in northern rivers. Daily temperatures are below 1°C for 234 days in a year in Stordalelv (Berlevåg), 239 days in Komagelv, 229 days in Skallelv. The less harsh water temperature conditions in winter are in the rivers Nyelv (145 days below 1°C), Sandneselv (163 days), Syltefjordelv (196 days) and Vetsikkojoki (197 days). Daily water temperatures in summer have an important role in the growth of juvenile salmon. In general, in the rivers with low water temperatures in July and August, juveniles are growing slowly and reaching smolt ages 1-3 years later compared to the smolt ages in warmer rivers.</p>	
<p>Key words: River temperatures, juveniles, Atlantic salmon, <i>Salmo salar</i>, Northern Norway, Finland</p>	

Front page photo:

Eero Niemelä

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1. Table I. Mean water temperatures from three summer months (June, July, August combined) in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021. Source; NVE (Norway), County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland).

River	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021
Grense Jakobselv		11.6	
Karpelv	11.4	12.9	13.6
Sandneselv		11.4	12.6
Neiden	12.4	13.3	14.6
Nyelv		11.3	
Vesterelv		11.9	12.6
Bergebyelv		8.9	
Skallelv		8.5	9.3
Komagelv		9.2	10.0
Sandfjordelv		6.8	7.4
Syltefjordelv		6.9	
Kongsfjordelv		8.9	10.1
Stordalelv		7.4	8.1
Tana	12.3	12.3	13.7
Levajoki	9.0	7.7	9.3
Kuoppilasjoki	10.2	9.9	11.1
Vetsikkajoki	11.5	11.5	12.7
Tsarsejoki	10.2	10.1	11.5
Vidisjoki	9.7	10.5	10.7
Äimäjoki	7.2	6.4	7.8
Yläseitikkajoki	9.9	10.1	11.0
Rassijoki	6.6	7.8	7.5
Puksaljoki	10.3	11.5	11.3
Leppäjoki	11.3	12.2	13.2

2. Graphs illustrating mean monthly temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures within and between large and small rivers

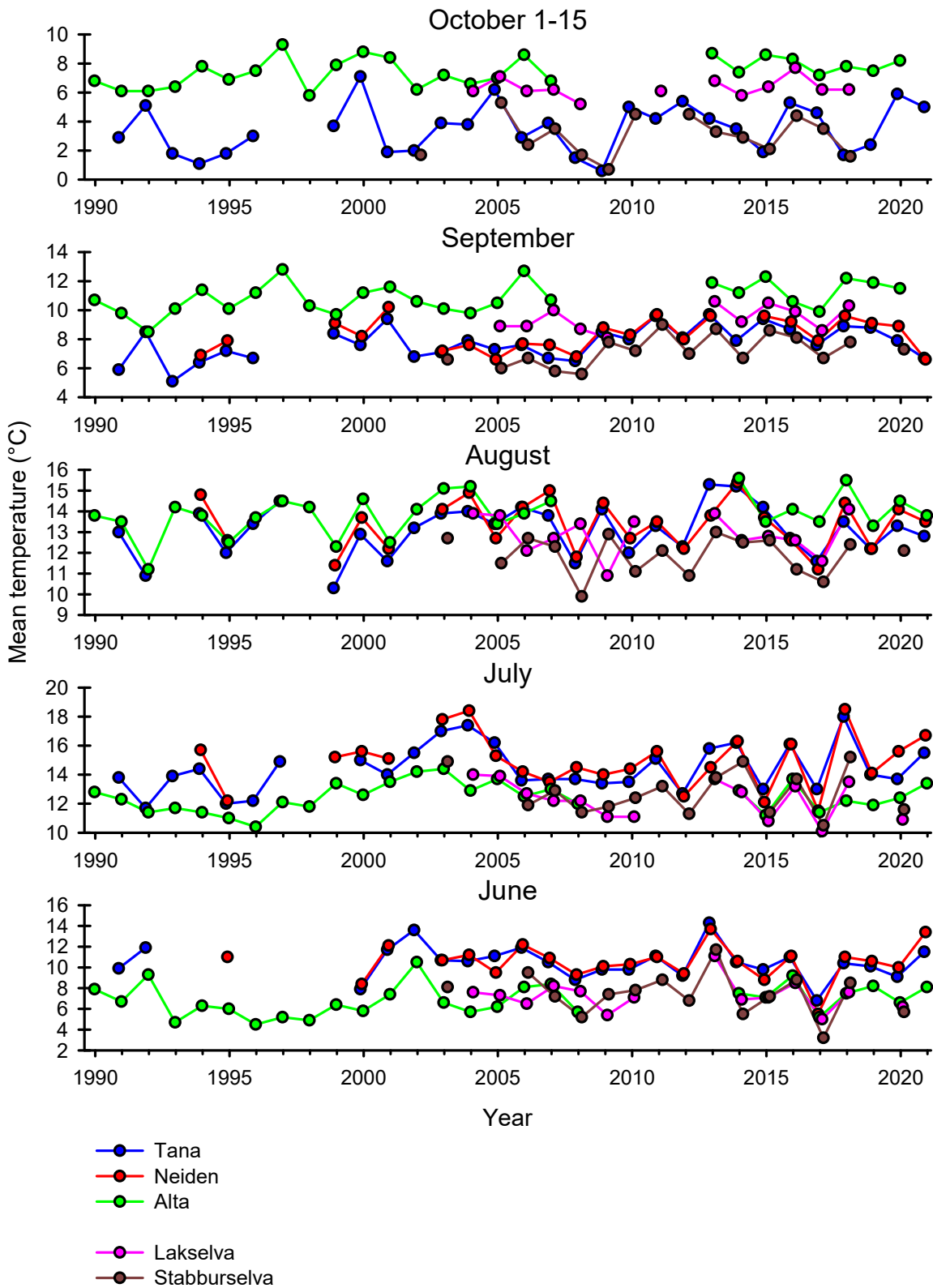


Figure 1. Monthly mean long-term water temperatures in the rivers Tana, Neiden, Alta, Lakselv and Stabburselv. Source; NVE (Norway).

Mean monthly river temperatures in northernmost Norway show simultaneous fluctuations between the rivers, although the rivers are located in large distances from each other. The biggest distance is between the River Alta (in western Finnmark) and the River Grense Jakobselv (in eastern Finnmark). River Alta is one of the coldest rivers early in the summer, June and July, compared to other large rivers. It can be explained by the large and deep-water magazine above the dam bringing cold water into the River Alta early in the summer. While water in the other rivers is getting colder, which is what normally happens towards autumn, water in the River Alta reservoir stays warmer for a longer period in September and October.

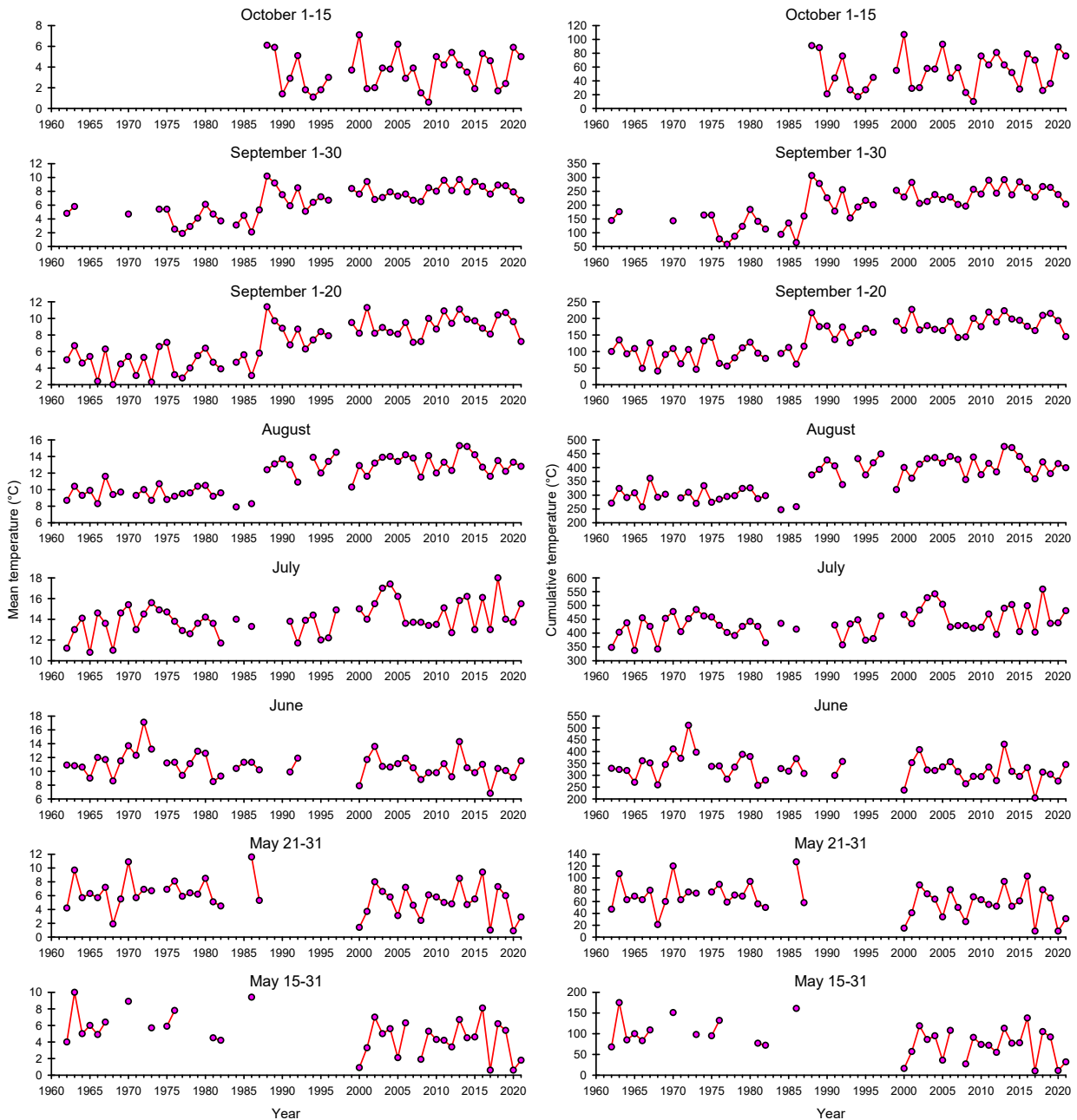


Figure 2. Monthly mean long-term water temperatures (figure on the left) and monthly cumulative temperatures calculated from the mean daily values (figure on the right) in the River Tana. Source; NVE (Norway), Finnish Environment Institute (Finland).

Monthly mean water temperatures and cumulative temperatures in the River Tana have increased especially in August and September compared to earlier years.

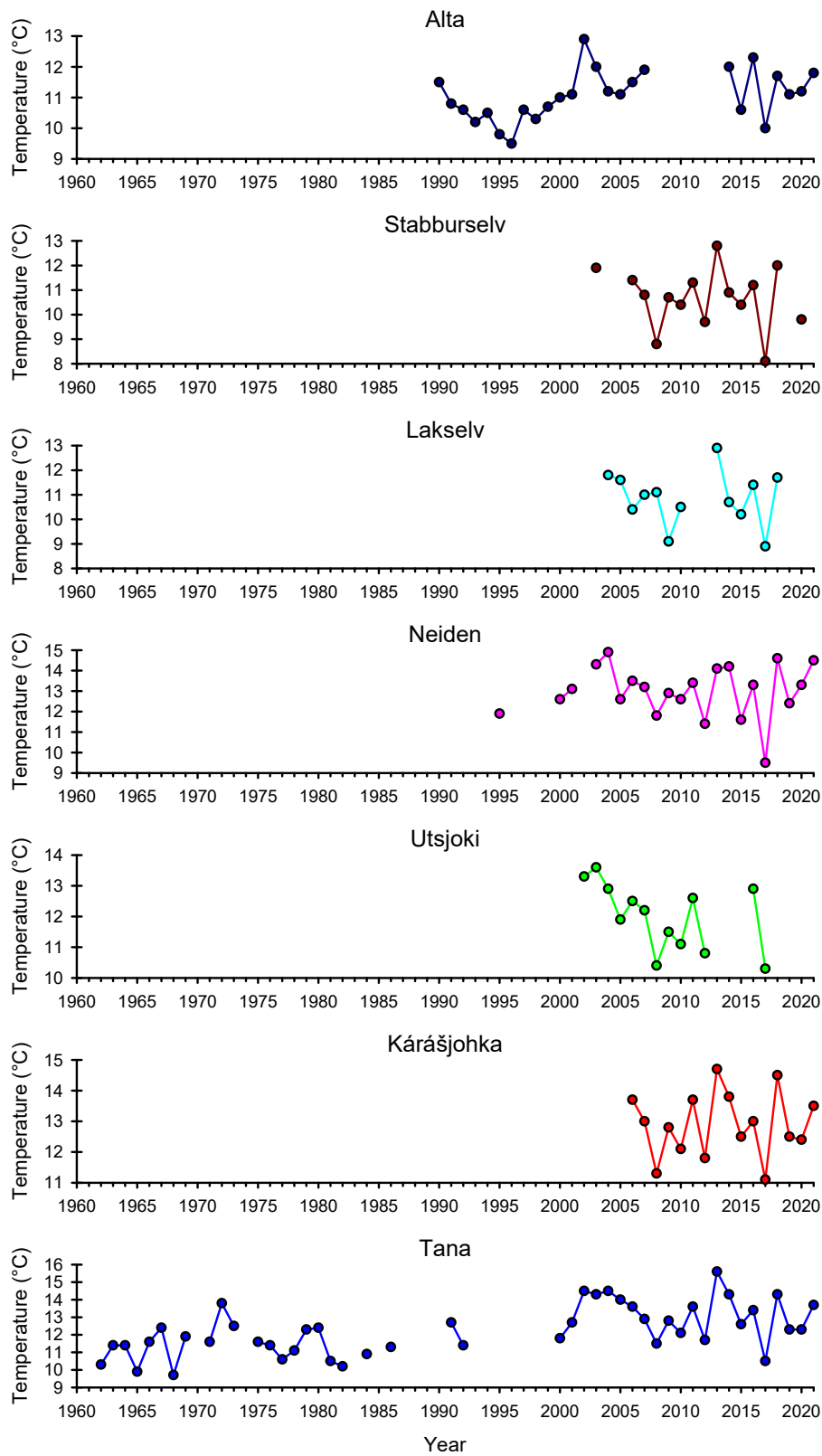


Figure 3. Mean water temperatures for summer months (June, July, August temperatures combined) in seven large salmon rivers in Northern Norway. Source; NVE (Norway), Finnish Environment Institute (Finland), Luke (Finland).

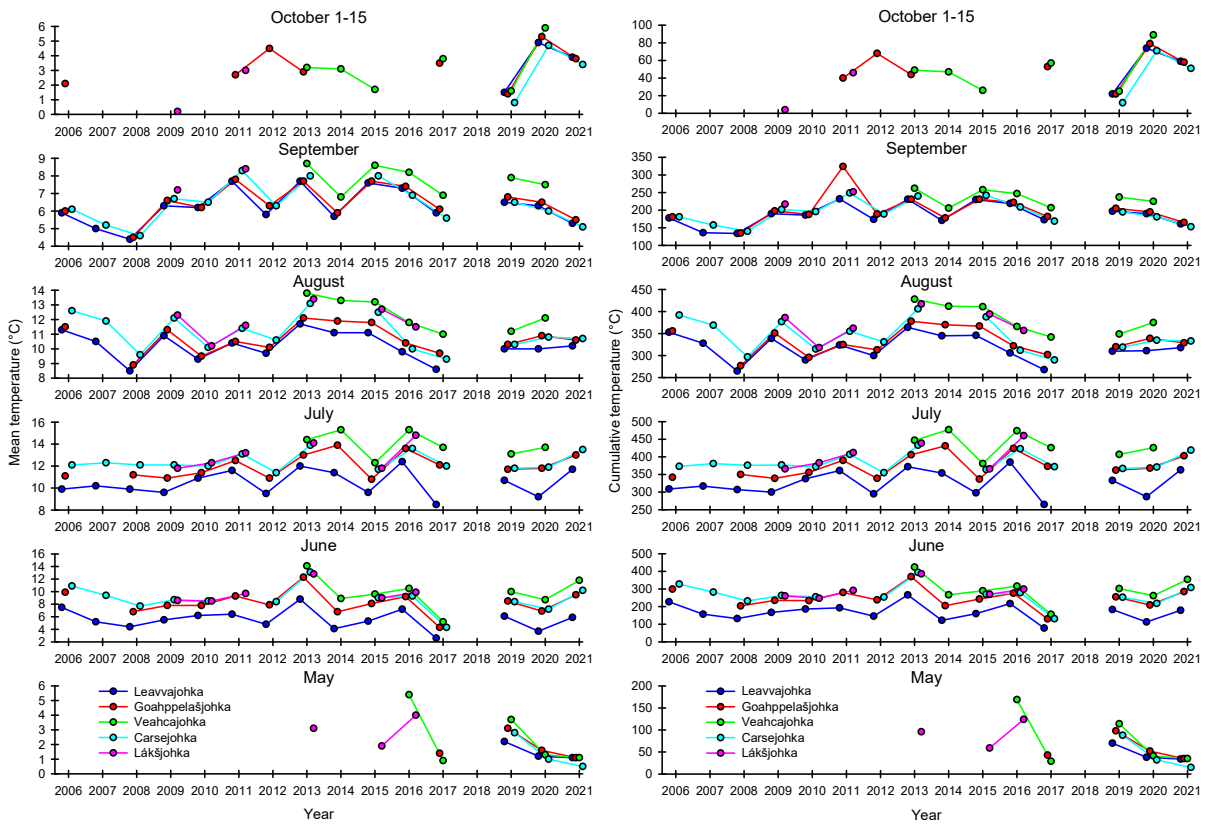


Figure 4. Monthly mean long-term water temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures (degree days) in salmon tributaries within the River Tana watershed. Source; County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland).

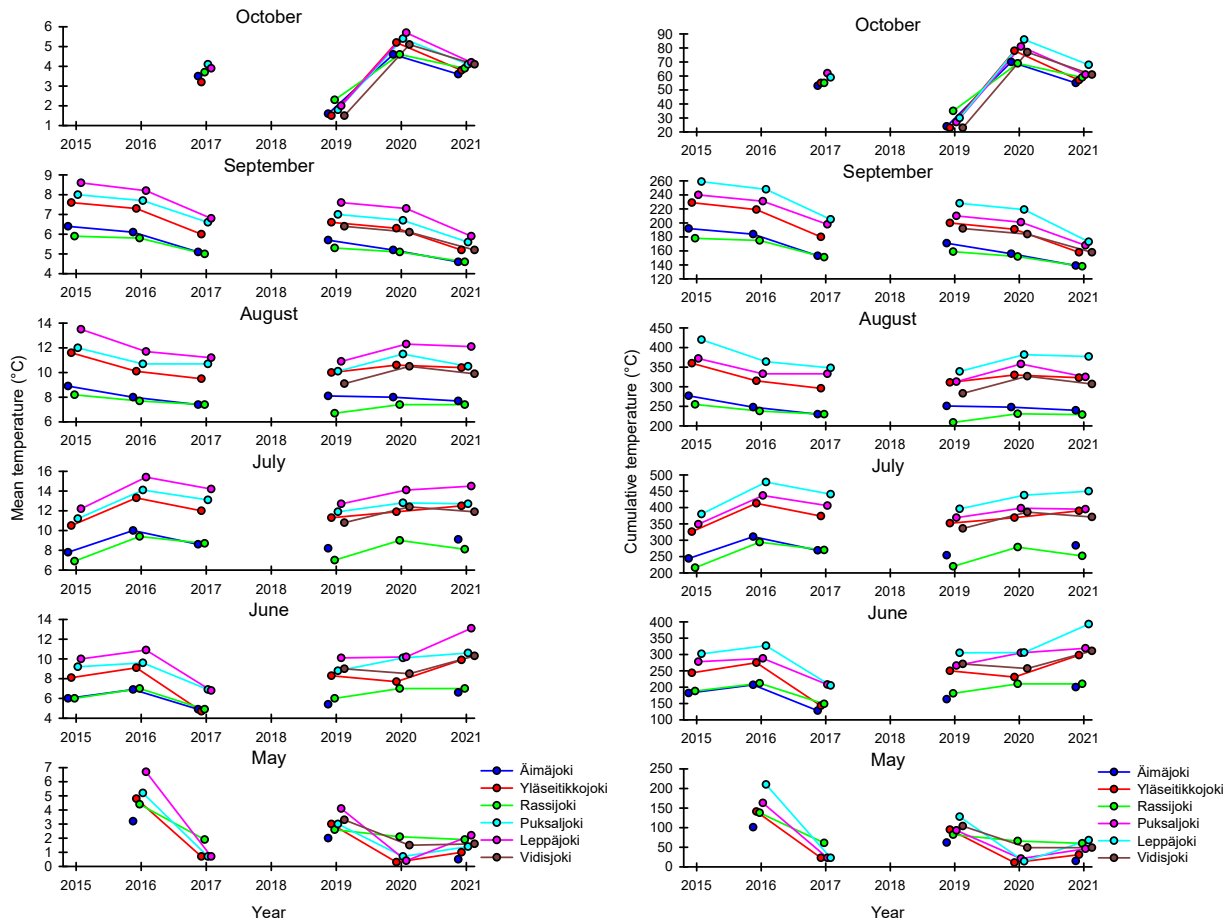


Figure 5. Monthly mean long-term water temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures (degree days) in small brooks within the River Tana watershed. Source; County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland).

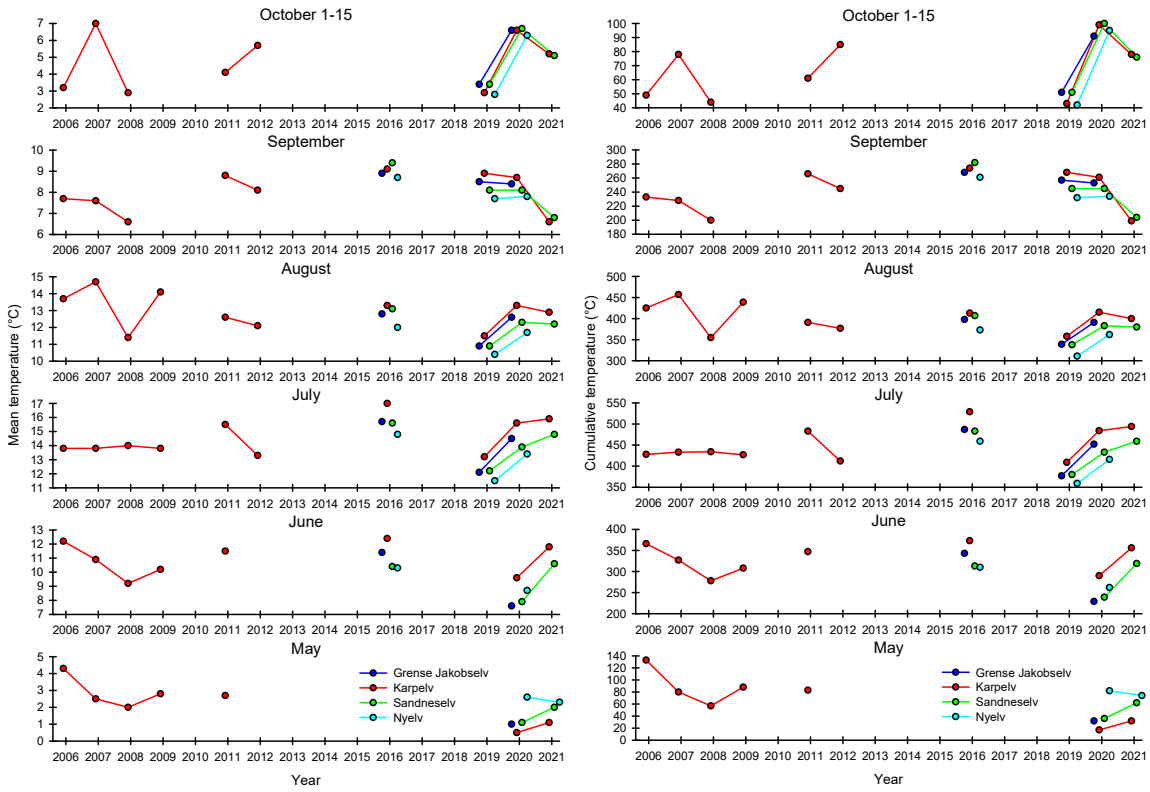


Figure 6. Monthly mean long-term water temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures (degree days) in salmon rivers within southern Varangerfjord. Source; NVE (Norway), County Governor (Norway).

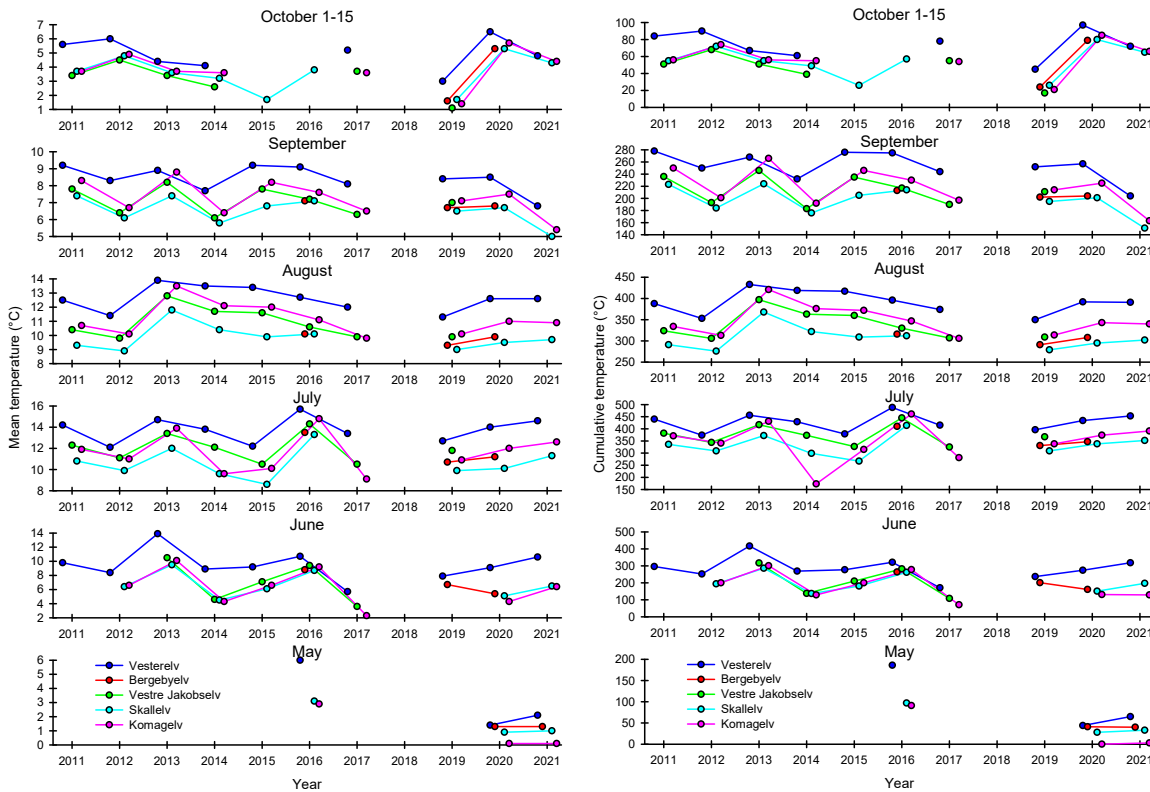


Figure 7. Monthly mean long-term water temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures (degree days) in salmon rivers within northern Varangerfjord, Source; County Governor (Norway).

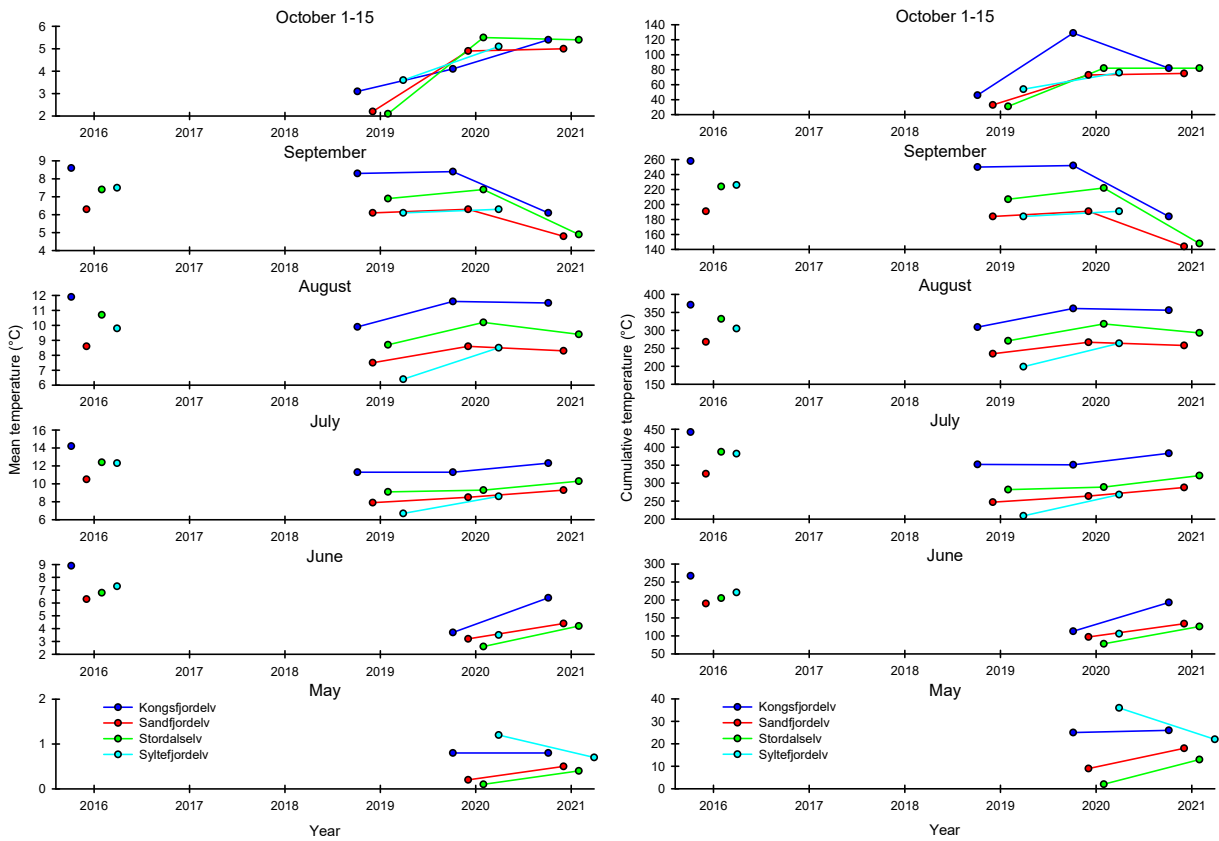


Figure 8. Monthly mean long-term water temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures (degree days) in salmon rivers within northern Finnmark. Source; County Governor (Norway).

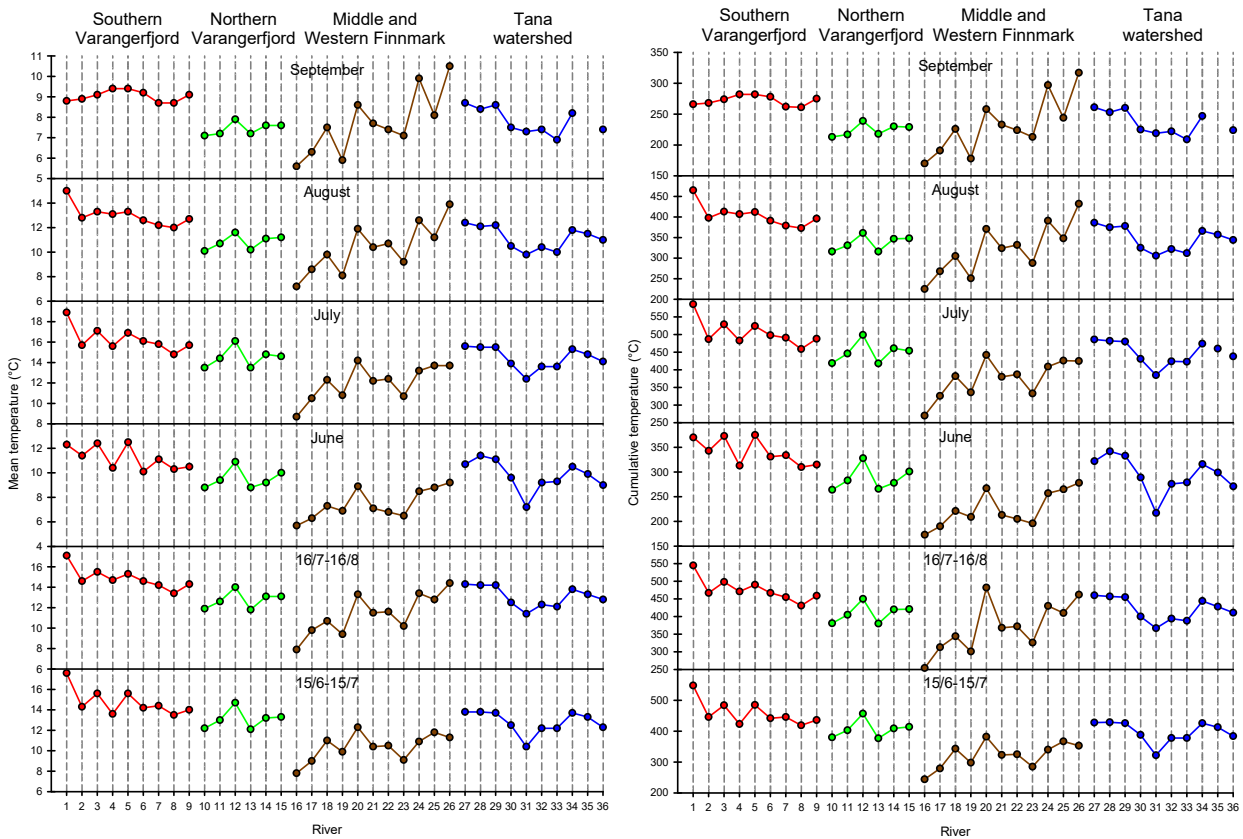


Figure 9. Monthly mean water temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures (degree days) in 35 salmon rivers in Northern Norway and Finland in the year 2016. Rivers in the figure are: **Ponoi (1), Grense Jakobselv (2), Karpelv (3), Sandneselv (4), Munkelv (5), Neiden (6), Klokkerelv (7), Nyelv (8), Vesterelv Nesseby (9), Bergebyelv (10), Vestre Jakobselv (11), Storelv Vadsö (12), Skallelv (13), Komagelv (14), Kramvikelv(15), Vesterelv (Hamningberg) (16), Sandfjordelv (17), Syltefjordelv (18), Storelv (Båtsfjord) (19), Kongsfjordelv (20), Östre Risfjordelv (21), Stordalselv (22), Julelv (23), Lakselv (24), Stabburselv (25), Alta (26), Tana (27), Karasjohka (28), Iesjohka (29), Baisjohka (30), Leavvajohka (31), Kuoppilasjoki (32), Tsarsejoki (33), Vetsikkojoki (34), Laksjohka (35), Luftjohka (36).** Colours in the graphs are indicating the geographical situation of the rivers: Red color are rivers east from Vesterelv in Southern Varangerfjord, Green color are rivers in Northern Varangerfjord; Brown color are rivers from Northern Varanger Peninsula to Altafjord, Blue color are rivers in Tana watershed. Source; NVE (Norway), County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland).

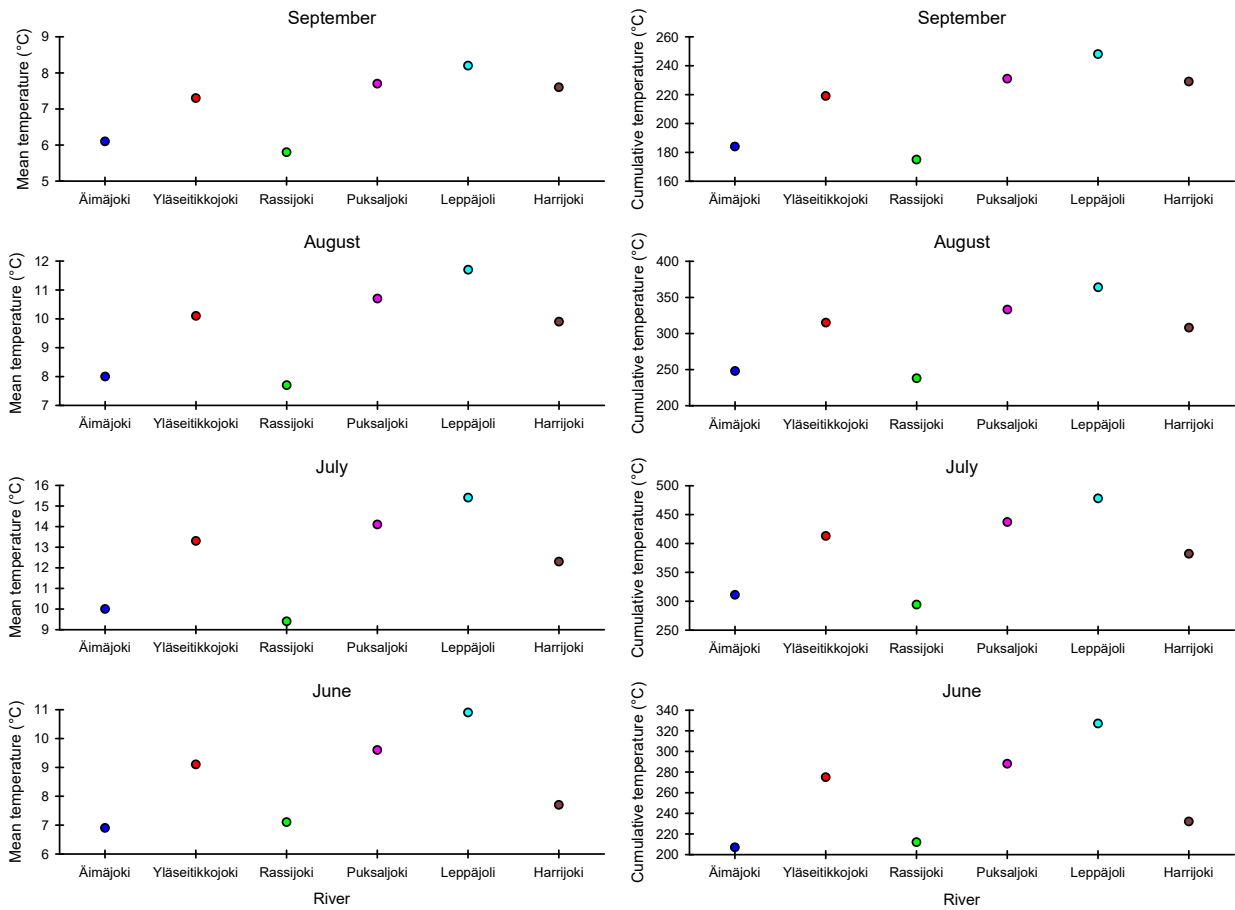


Figure 10. Monthly mean water temperatures and monthly cumulative temperatures (degree days) in brooks in the River Tana watershed in the year 2016. Source; County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland).

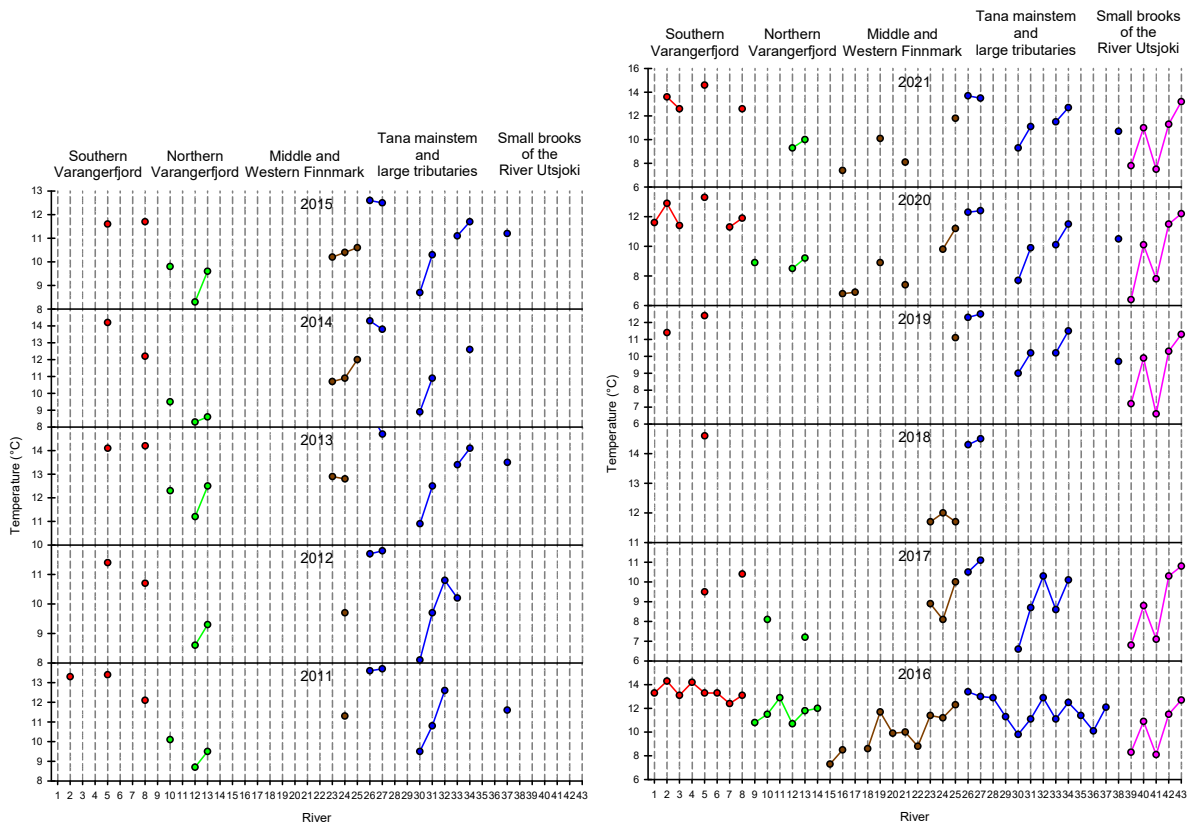


Figure 11. Summer mean temperatures (June, July, August combined) in Northern Norway and in Finland in the years 2011-2021. Rivers in the figure are: **Grense Jakobselv (1), Karpelv (2), Sandneselv (3), Munkelv (4), Neiden (5), Klokkerelv (6), Nyelv (7), Vesterelv Nesseby (8), Bergebyelv (9), Vestre Jakobselv (10), Storelv (Vadsø) (11), Skallelv (12), Komagelv (13), Kramvikelv(14), Vesterelv (Hamningberg) (15), Sandfjordelv (16), Syltefjordelv (17), Storelv (Båtsfjord) (18), Kongsfjordelv (19), Østre Risfjordelv (20), Stordalselv (21), Julelv (22), Lakselv (23), Stabburselv (24), Alta (25), Tana (26), Karasjohka (27), Iesjohka (28), Baisjohka (29), Leavvajohka (30), Kuoppilasjoki (31), Utsjoki (32), Tsarsejoki (33), Vetsikkojoki (34), Luftjohka (35), Harrjohka (36) Laksjohka (37), Vidisjoki (38), Äimäjoki (39), Yläseitikkojoki (40), Rassijoki (41), Puksaljoki (42), Leppäjoki (43).** Source; NVE (Norway), County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland).

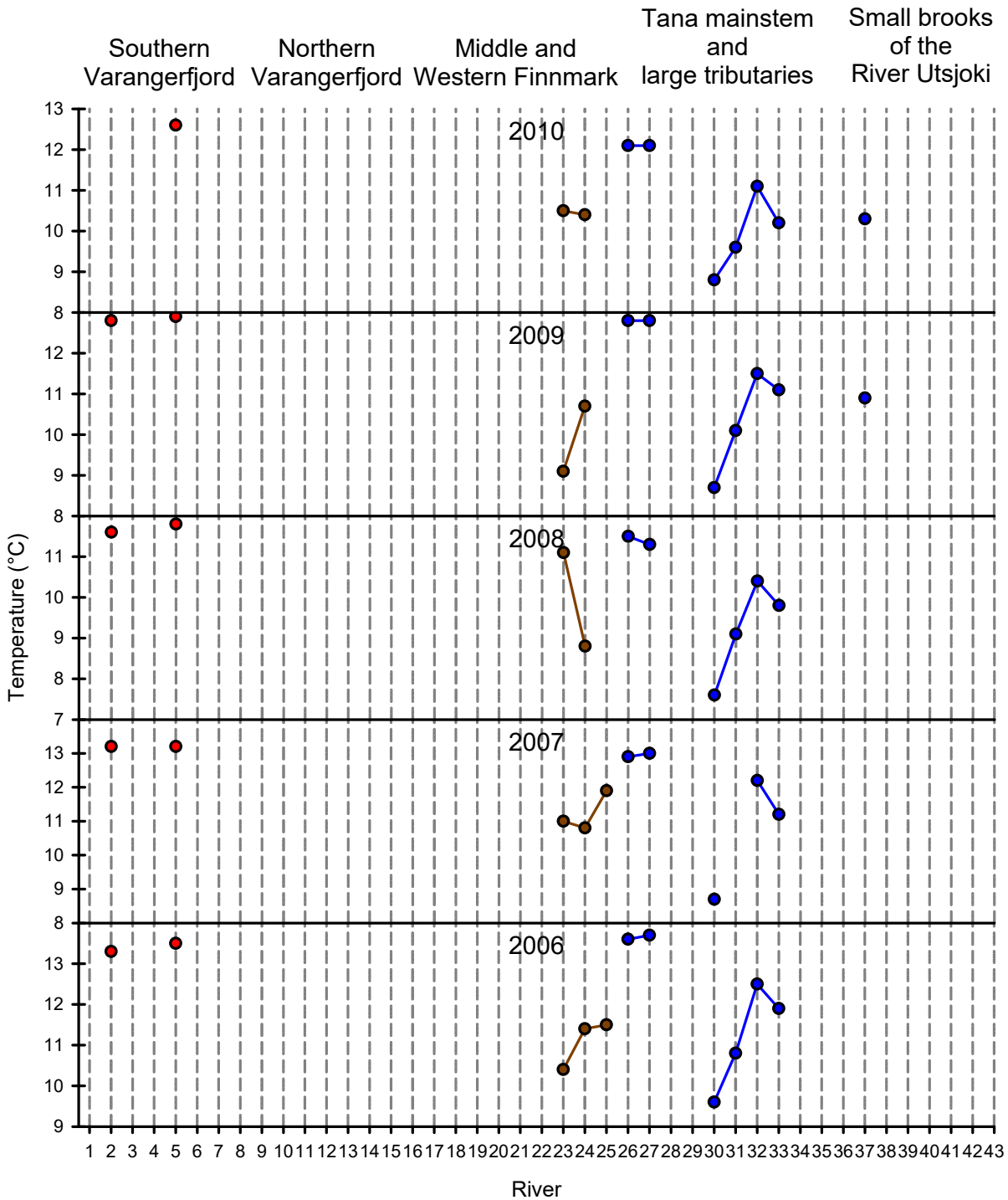


Figure 12. Summer mean temperatures (June, July, August combined) in Northern Norway and in Finland in the years 2006-2010. Rivers in the figure are: **Grense Jakobselv (1), Karpelv (2), Sandneselv (3), Munkelv (4), Neiden (5), Klokkerelv (6), Nyelv (7), Vesterelv Nesseby (8), Bergebyelv (9), Vestre Jakobselv (10), Storelv Vadsø (11), Skallelv (12), Komagelv (13), Kramvikelv(14), Vesterelv (Hamningberg) (15), Sandfjordelv (16), Syltefjordelv (17), Storelv (Båtsfjord) (18), Kongsfjordelv (19), Østre Risfjordelv (20), Stordalselv (21), Julelv (22), Lakselv (23), Stabburselv (24), Alta (25), Tana (26), Karasjohka (27), Iesjohka (28), Baisjohka (29), Leavvajohka (30), Kuoppilasjoki (31), Utsjoki (32), Tsarsejoki (33), Vetsikkojoki (34), Luftjohka (35), Harrjohka (36) Laksjohka (37), Vidisjohka (38), Äimäjoki (39), Yläseitikkajoki (40), Rassijoki (41), Puksaljoki (42), Leppäjoki (43). Source; NVE (Norway), County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland).**

3. Cumulative temperatures from late summer to the following summer indicating the egg development period

Table II. Cumulative water temperatures (degree days) from the expected spawning dates of pink salmon (10. and 20. August in the year 2019 and in the year 2020) to the end of the same year, to the end of May in the following year (2020 and 2021) and to the 15. June in the following year (2020 and 2021). The cumulative water degree days are affecting into the development of eggs to eyed-egg stage and to the hatching period of eggs to yolk-sac alevins. Pink salmon eggs need 350-400 degree days counting from the fertilization date to reach the eyed-egg stage date, 550-650 degree days from the fertilization date to hatch from the eggs (and start to use yolk-sac energy), 900-950 days from the fertilization date to emerge from the spawning gravel to the upper layers of gravel in the river bottom. Source; NVE (Norway), County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland), VNIRO (Russia).

River	Spawning on 10. August in 2019 (2020) and degree days until 31. December 2019 (2020)	Spawning on 20. August in 2019 (2020) and degree days until 31. December 2019 (2020)	Spawning on 10. August in 2019 (2020) and degree days until 31. May in 2020 (2021)	Spawning on 20 August in 2019 (2020) and degree days until 31. May in 2020 (2021)	Spawning on 10. August in 2019 (2020) and degree days until 15. June in 2020 (2021)	Spawning on 20. August in 2019 (2020) and degree days until 15. June in 2020 (2021)
Grense Jakobselv	573, (676)	464, (552)	619	511	687	579
Karpelv	586, (678)	471, (548)	603, (710)	489, (580)	708, (865)	593, (735)
Sandneselv	563, (663)	453, (544)	605, (735)	496, (616)	685	579
Neiden	592, (672)	474, (533)	639, (738)	521, (599)	747, (922)	629, (783)
Nyelv	533, (624)	430, (508)	678	575	778	675
Vesterelv	562, (649)	448, (525)	605, (714)	490, (590)	707, (853)	593, (730)
Bergebyelv	454, (514)	359, (416)	509, (569)	415, (470)	562	467
Vestre Jakobselv	462	361	539	439	575	474
Skallelv	432, (509)	342, (418)	462, (548)	372, (456)	511, (620)	421, (529)
Komagelv	472, (562)	369, (456)	472, (572)	370, (466)	504, (635)	402, (529)
Sandfjorelv	395, (487)	319, (403)	404, (505)	328, (421)	433, (548)	358, (464)
Syltefjordelv	421	358	457	395	488	425
Kongsfjordelv	561, (642)	466, (530)	608, (692)	513, (580)	634, (750)	539, (538)
Stordalelv	449, (560)	364, (462)	452, (590)	364, (492)	474, (622)	389, (523)
Tana	570, (587)	454, (463)	584, (620)	468, (496)	681, (781)	564, (657)
Leavvajohka	453, (481)	353, (385)	502, (530)	402, (435)	531, (592)	431, (497)
Kuoppilasjohka	471, (502)	365, (399)	535, (551)	429, (448)	596, (680)	490, (646)
Veahsajohka	527, (576)	413, (461)	579, (624)	465, (509)	661, (800)	547, (685)
Tsarsejohka	448, (474)	342, (372)	481, (489)	374, (387)	542, (638)	436, (536)

Table III. Cumulative water temperatures (degree days) in salmon rivers in Northern Norway and in the River Tana watershed from the expected spawning dates of Atlantic salmon (20. September, 25. September, 5. October in the year 2019) onwards to the end of May, to 15. of June and to 15. July in the following year (2020). The cumulative water degree days are affecting into the development of eggs to eyed-egg stage and to the hatching period of eggs to yolk-sac alevins. Source; NVE (Norway), County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland)

	Spawning on 20. September in 2019 and degree days until 31. May 2020	Spawning on 25. September in 2019 and degree days until 31. May 2020	Spawning on 5. October in 2019 and degree days until 31. May in 2020	Spawning on 20. September in 2019 and degree days until 15. June 2020	Spawning on 25. September in 2019 and degree days until 15. June 2020	Spawning on 5. October in 2019 and degree days until 15. June in 2020	Spawning on 20. September in 2019 and degree days until 15. July in 2020	Spawning on 25. September in 2019 and degree days until 15. July in 2020	Spawning on 5. October in 2019 and degree days until 15. July in 2020
Greense Jakobselv	168	141	90	398	370	319	583	555	504
Karpelv	127	100	51	418	391	342	614	587	538
Neiden	141	117	73	442	418	375	634	610	567
Vesterelv	146	123	78	420	397	352	597	575	529
Bergebyelv	131	114	80	293	276	242	429	413	379
Vestre Jakobselv	136	121	88						
Skallelv	98	82	49	250	234	201	385	369	336
Komagelv	63	47	14	194	179	145	335	319	286
Sandfjorelv	87	68	33	185	166	131	284	264	230
Syltefjordelv	184	158	113	291	265	220	393	367	322
Kongsfjordelv	179	156	111	293	269	224	420	396	351
Stordalelv	81	63	27	160	142	106	258	240	205
Tana	106	81	38	380	355	312	550	525	481
Leavvajohka	114	99	66	227	212	180	334	319	286
Kuoppilasjohka	130	115	83	340	324	292	486	470	438
Veahtsajohka	126	107	71	389	370	334	561	542	506
Tsarsejohka	80	67	40	298	285	258	447	434	407

Table IV. The length of cold-water periods in northern rivers from late autumn to late spring (number of days below 5°C and below 1°C) and the mean water temperature when it was below 1°C. Source; NVE (Norway), County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland).

River	Period during winter when mean daily water temperature is below 5°C			Period during winter when mean daily water temperature is below 1°C		
	Start of cold period in autumn (below 5°C)	Stop of cold period in early summer (below 5°C)	Duration of cold period (below 5°C) in days	Start of cold period in autumn (below 1°C)	Stop of cold period in early summer (below 1°C)	Duration of cold period in days and mean temperature
Greense Jakobselv	2.10.2019	9.6.2020	252 days	18.10.2019	25.5.2020	221 days, 0.19 °C
Karpelv	1.10.2019	2.6.2020	246 days	17.10.2020	20.5.2020	217 days, 0.03 °C
Karpelv	14.10.2020	1.6.2021	231 days	18.10.2020	22.5.2021	217 days, 0.11 °C
Sandneselv	19.9.2019	7.6.2020	263 days	19.10.2019	11.5.2020	206 days, 0.07 °C
Sandneselv	14.10.2020	1.6.2021	231 days	20.11.2020	1.5.2021	163 days, 0.12 °C
Neiden	22.9.2019	1.6.2020	253 days,	15.10.2019	20.5.2020	218 days, 0.13 °C
Neiden	14.10.2020	30.5.2021	229 days,	18.10.2020	11.5.2021	206 days, 0.10 °C
Nyelv	19.9.2019	4.6.2020	260 days	17.10.2019	12.4.2020	179 days, 0.33 °C
Nyelv	13.10.2020	30.5.2021	229 days	30.10.2020	23.3.2021	145 days, 0.40 °C
Vesterelv	29.9.2019	5.6.2020	250 days	17.10.2019	19.5.2020	216 days, 0.05 °C
Vesterelv	13.10.2020	31.5.2021	231 days	7.11.2020	7.5.2021	182 days, 0.04 °C
Bergebyelv	18.9.2019	12.6.2020	269 days	12.10.2019	16.5.2020	218 days, 0.16 °C
Bergebyelv	13.10.2020	7.6.2021	238 days	17.10.2020	12.5.2021	208 days, 0.18 °C
Vestre Jakobselv	18.9.2019	12.6.2020	268 days	11.10.2019	30.4.2020	203 days, 0.19 °C
Skallelv	18.9.2019	16.6.2020	273 days	15.10.2019	30.5.2020	229 days, 0.13 °C
Skallelv	13.10.2020	7.6.2021	238 days	17.11.2020	22.5.2021	217 days, 0.19 °C
Komagelv	18.9.2019	16.6.2020	273 days	11.10.2019	5.6.2020	239 days, 0.00 °C
Komagelv	13.10.2020	15.6.2021	246 days	17.10.2020	31.5.2021	227 days, 0.10 °C
Sandfjordelv	17.9.2019	1.7.2020	289 days	16.10.2019	25.5.2020	223 days, 0.09 °C
Sandfjordelv	12.10.2020	18.6.2021	250 days	17.10.2020	22.5.2021	218 days, 0.07 °C
Syltefjordelv	28.9.2019	20.6.2020	267 days	1.11.2019	14.5.2020	196 days, 0.02 °C
Kongsfjordelv	22.9.2019	20.6.2020	273 days	28.10.2019	16.5.2020	202 days, 0.22 °C
Kongsfjordelv	14.10.2020	8.6.2021	238 days	29.10.2020	3.6.2021	218 days, 0.31 °C
Stordalelv	18.9.2019	2.7.2020	289 days	14.10.2019	3.6.2020	234 days, 0.01 °C
Stordalelv	13.10.2020	19.6.2021	250 days	17.10.2020	3.6.2021	230 days, 0.27 °C
Tana	30.9.2019	2.6.2020	246 days	17.10.2019	25.5.2020	221 days, 0.01 °C
Tana	13.10.2020	30.5.2021	230 days	18.10.2020	23.5.2021	218 days, 0.01 °C
Kuoppilasjoki	18.9.2019	10.6.2020	267 days	12.10.2019	10.5.2020	212 days, 0.12 °C
Kuoppilasjoki	12.10.2020	2.6.2021	234 days	16.10.2020	22.5.2021	219 days, 0.15 °C
Levajohka	18.9.2019	19.6.2020	276 days	11.10.2019	13.5.2020	216 days, 0.12 °C
Levajohka	12.10.2020	7.6.2021	239 days	20.10.2020	23.5.2021	216 days, 0.18 °C
Vetsikkojoki	19.9.2019	8.6.2020	264 days	13.10.2019	26.4.2020	197 days, 0.03 °C
Vetsikkojoki	13.10.2020	30.5.2021	230 days	17.10.2020	23.5.2021	219 days, 0.13 °C
Tsarsejoki	15.9.2019	9.6.2020	268 days	2.10.2019	16.5.2020	228 days, 0.01 °C
Tsarsejoki	12.10.2020	1.6.2021	233 days	14.10.2020	23.5.2021	222 days, 0.01 °C
Vidisjoki	18.9.2019	7.6.2020	263 days	12.10.2019	1.5.2020	203 days, 0.16 °C
Vidisjoki	12.10.2020	1.6.2021	233 days	17.10.2020	15.4.2021	181 days, 0.17 °C
Äimäjoki	15.9.2019	21.6.2020	280 days	12.10.2019	17.6.2020	246 days, 0.21 °C
Äimäjoki	12.10.2020	2.6.2021	234 days	17.10.2020	24.5.2021	219 days, 0.09 °C
Yläseitikkajoki	18.9.2019	8.6.2020	264 days	12.10.2019	31.5.2020	233 days, 0.25 °C
Yläseitikkajoki	11.10.2020	1.6.2021	234 days	16.10.2020	22.5.2021	219 days, 0.41 °C
Rassijoki	15.9.2019	4.6.2020	263 days	19.10.2019	12.4.2020	177 days, 0.46 °C
Rassijoki	16.9.2020	1.6.2021	259 days	19.11.2020	15.4.2021	148 days, 0.61 °C
Puksaljoki	18.9.2019	1.6.2020	257 days	17.10.2019	27.5.2020	224 days, 0.12 °C
Puksaljoki	12.10.2020	30.5.2021	231 days	18.10.2020	16.5.2021	212 days, 0.19 °C
Leppäjoki	18.9.2019	4.6.2020	260 days	17.10.2019	26.5.2020	223 days, 0.16 °C
Leppäjoki	13.10.2020	30.5.2021	230 days	17.10.2020	11.5.2021	205 days, 0.21 °C

4. Cumulative development of river temperatures from the suggested spawning times of pink salmon and Atlantic salmon to the end of following spring and to the middle of July

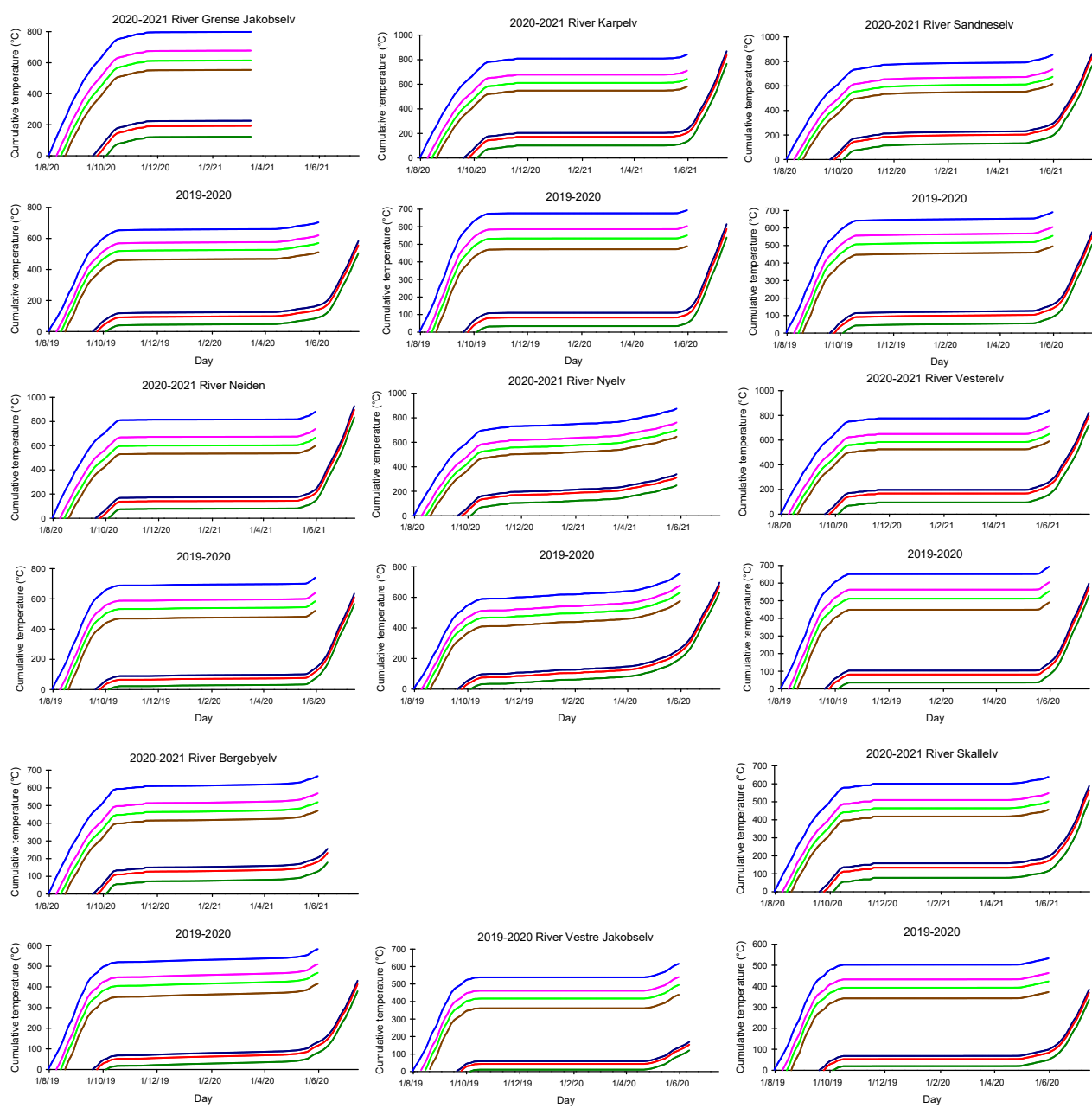


Figure 13. Cumulative temperatures from the suggested spawning times of pink salmon (1., 10., 15., 20. August) and of Atlantic salmon (20., and 25. September and 5. October) to 31. May and to 15. July in Finnmark rivers in the years 2019-2021. Source; County Governor (Norway)

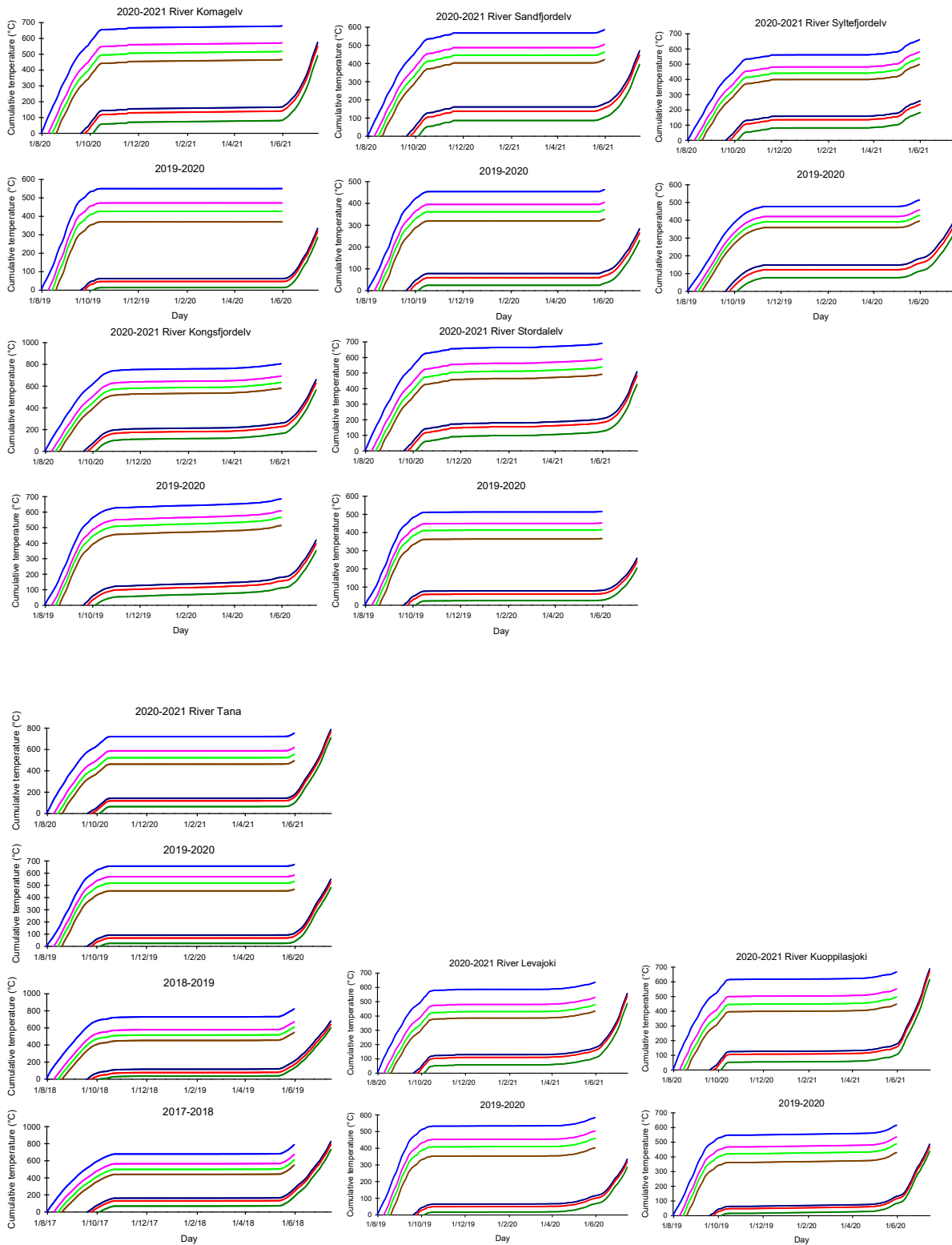


Figure 14. Cumulative temperatures from the suggested spawning times of pink salmon (1., 10., 15., 20. August) and of Atlantic salmon (20., and 25. September and 5. October) to 31. May and to 15. July in Finnmark rivers and in the River Tana watershed in the years 2017-2021. Source; County Governor (Norway), Luke (Finland).

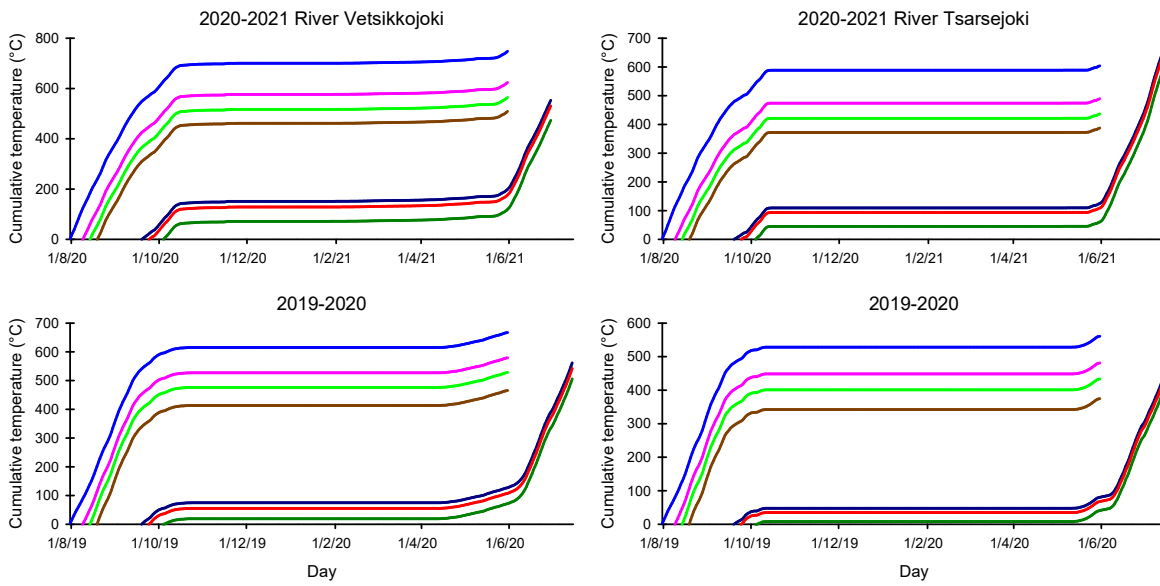


Figure 15. Cumulative temperatures from the suggested spawning times of pink salmon (1., 10., 15., 20. August) and of Atlantic salmon (20., and 25. September and 5. October) to 31. May and to 15. July in the River Tana watershed in the years 2019-2021. Source; Luke (Finland).