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Preliminary 1996 Commercial Salmon
Harvest Statistics for Alaska

by

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Summary

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game annually provides salmon forecasts with estimates of the commercial salmon harvest from the previous year (Geiger et al. 1997). Annual sport fish harvest estimates, based on mail surveys, are available annually from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The most recent of these is Howe et al. (1996), and it covers the 1995 season. Estimates for the 1996 sport fishery are expected to be available later in 1997. Catch estimates for the subsistence fisheries in 1996 are not yet available.

The current 1996 all-species catch estimate for the commercial salmon fishery is 176 million fish (Table 1). Nearly 900 million pounds of Alaskan salmon entered fish markets in 1996 (Table 2), with an estimated exvessel value of \$365 million. This value is down from estimated exvessel values for the 1995 fishery of \$461 million and for the 1994 fishery of \$468 million. Tables 3 through 6 provide detailed estimates of commercial harvests for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's four fishery management regions (Figure 1). Figures 2 through 6 provide historical catch estimates from 1970 to 1995 for the five salmon species harvested commercially in Alaska.

Despite a lower catch in 1996, Alaska's salmon runs are healthy; most spawning stock sizes are very near levels the Alaska Department of Fish and Game considers ideal.

Literature Cited

- Geiger, H. J., B. Frenette, and D. Hart. 1997. Run forecasts and harvest projections for 1997 Alaska salmon fisheries and review of the 1996 season. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, Regional Information Report 5J97-10, Juneau.
- Howe, A. L., G. Fidler, A. E. Bingham, and M. J. Mills. 1996. Harvest, catch, and participation in Alaska sport fisheries during 1995. Fishery Data Series 96-32. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, Anchorage.

Table 1. Preliminary 1996 Alaska commercial salmon harvests, by fishing area and species, in thousands of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Southeast Region Total	208	2,800	3,100	64,500	15,300	85,900
Prince William Sound	57	3,010	459	26,000	2,110	31,600
Upper Cook Inlet	14	3,880	321	243	157	4,620
Lower Cook Inlet	1	443	11	450	3	910
Bristol Bay	88	29,600	123	40	841	30,700
Central Region Total	160	36,900	910	26,700	3,110	67,800
Kodiak Area	13	4,970	202	3,500	544	9,230
Chignik	3	1,960	193	184	100	2,440
South Peninsula	5	1,540	279	2,190	776	4,790
North Peninsula	5	1,910	157	54	68	2,190
Aleutian Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westward Region Total	26	10,400	831	5,920	1,490	18,700
AYK Region Total	118	122	1,220	489	1,170	3,120
Total Alaska	512	50,200	6,060	97,600	21,100	176,000

Missing data indicates no harvest and zeros indicate harvest activity but <1,000.
Columns and rows do not total exactly due to rounding.

Modified January 27, 1997

Table 2. Preliminary 1996 Alaska commercial salmon harvests, by fishing area and species, in thousands of pounds.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Southeast Region Total	3,430	17,900	23,900	226,000	142,000	413,000
Prince William Sound	1,410	19,300	3,700	93,600	18,360	136,000
Upper Cook Inlet	308	24,100	2,090	680	1,570	28,700
Lower Cook Inlet	22	2,750	72	1,260	30	4,100
Bristol Bay	1,580	186,000	836	140	6,140	195,000
Central Region Total	3,320	232,000	6,700	95,700	26,100	364,000
Kodiak Area	178	28,300	1,700	12,000	4,500	47,000
Chignik	54	13,500	1,380	700	770	16,400
South Peninsula	104	9,400	1,790	5,500	6,000	22,800
North Peninsula	104	11,700	1,005	135	480	13,400
Aleutian Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westward Region Total	440	62,900	5,880	18,000	11,800	100,000
AYK Region Total	2,100	950	9,390	1,516	9,000	23,000
Total Alaska	9,300	314,000	45,900	341,000	189,000	900,000

Missing data indicates no harvest and zeros indicate harvest activity but <1,000.

Columns and rows do not total exactly due to rounding.

Modified January 27, 1997

Table 3. Preliminary 1996 Southeastern Region commercial salmon harvests, by fishing area and species, in thousands of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Tree Point Drift Gillnet	1	212	33	371	602	1,220
Prince of Wales Gillnet	1	311	224	188	283	1,010
Stikine River Gillnet	2	154	19	38	136	349
Southern Districts Seine	0	1,400	303	52,100	2,213	56,000
Annette Island Fisheries	0	30	42	868	126	1,070
Southern Southeast Total	4	2,110	621	53,570	3,360	59,700
Taku-Snettisham Gillnet	3	199	34	13	354	603
Lynn Canal Gillnet	1	147	53	2	342	545
Yakutat Set Net	5	209	228	31	2	475
Northern Districts Seine	0	102	132	9,130	1,800	11,200
Northern Southeast Total	9	660	447	9,180	2,500	12,820
Southeast Troll ^a	141	11	1,900	813	406	3,270
Hatchery Terminal Area Fisheries						
Gillnet	3	4	7	4	314	332
Seine	22	10	7	437	4,880	5,360
Private Hatchery Fishery	28	0	114	481	3,760	4,380
Miscellaneous ^b	1	2	0	44	32	79
Southeast Region Total	208	2,800	3,100	64,500	15,300	85,900

^a Includes chinook salmon caught by troll gear from October 11, 1995 to September 30, 1996.

^b Includes salmon that were confiscated or taken in sport fish derbies or commercial test fisheries.

Missing data indicates no harvest and zeros indicate harvest activity but <1,000.

Columns and rows do not total exactly due to rounding.

Revised January 27, 1997

Table 4. Preliminary 1996 Central Region commercial salmon harvests, by fishing area and species, in thousands of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Purse Seine						
Eastern ^a	0	4	88	6,080	340	6,510
Northern ^b	0	5	7	5,040	11	5,060
Coghill	0	3	5	1,480	0	1,490
Southwestern	0	12	11	5,050	13	5,090
Drift Gillnet						
Bering River ^b	0	38	94		0	130
Copper River ^b	56	2,360	193	6	26	2,640
Unakwik	0	6		0	1	7
Coghill	1	178	21	59	613	872
Eshamy	0	179	1	19	24	223
Set Gillnet						
Eshamy	0	132	0	17	9	158
Hatchery ^c						
	0	87	39	8,290	1,070	9,490
Miscellaneous PWS ^d						
	0	1			0	1
Prince William Sound Total	57	3,010	459	26,000	2,110	31,600
Southern District						
	1	357	8	443	3	812
Kamishak District						
	0	27	0	0	0	27
Outer District						
		15	0	7	0	22
Eastern District						
		44	3	0	0	47
Lower Cook Inlet Total	1	443	11	450	3	910
Central District						
	12	3,780	243	222	145	4,400
Northern District						
	2	104	78	21	12	217
Upper Cook Inlet Total	14	3,880	321	243	157	4,620
Naknek-Kvichak						
	4	8,190	4	5	124	8,330
Nushagak District						
	73	5,750	12	2	324	6,160
Egegik District						
	1	10,800	39	0	83	10,900
Ugashik District						
	1	4,410	9	0	103	4,520
Togiak District						
	9	461	59	31	207	770
Bristol Bay Total	88	29,600	123	40	841	30,700
Central Region Total	160	36,900	910	26,700	3,110	67,800

^a Totals include discarded pink and chum salmon.

^b Does not include salmon taken for home use as reported on fish tickets.

^c Hatchery sales for operating expenses. Includes meal production/roe salvage sales, processor discards. Excludes post egg-take roe sales at hatcheries.

^d Some of these fish were donations landed by Coghill District and Copper River District drift gillnet holders.

Missing data indicates no harvest and zeros indicate harvest activity but <1,000.

Columns and rows do not total exactly due to rounding.

Revised January 27, 1997

Table 5. Preliminary 1996 Westward Region commercial salmon harvests, by fishing area and species, in thousands of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Kodiak Area	13	4,970	202	3,500	544	9,230
Chignik Area	3	1,960	193	184	100	2,440
South Peninsula	5	1,540	279	2,190	776	4,790
North Peninsula	5	1,910	157	54	68	2,190
Alaska Peninsula Total	10	3,450	436	2,240	844	6,980
Aleutian Islands						
Westward Region Total	26	10,400	831	5,920	1,490	18,700

Missing data indicates no harvest and zeros indicate harvest activity but <1,000.
Columns and rows do not total exactly due to rounding.

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Table 6. Preliminary 1996 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Region commercial salmon harvests, by fishing area and species, in thousands of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Kuskokwim River	7	34	936	2	200	1,180
Kuskokwim Bay	16	88	163		93	360
Kuskokwim Area Total	23	122	1,100	2	293	1,540
Lower Yukon River	87		49		188	324
Upper Yukon River ^a	3		7		596	606
Yukon River Total	90	0	56	0	784	930
Norton Sound	5		68	487	11	571
Kotzebue Area	0				80	80
AYK Region Total	118	122	1,220	489	1,170	3,120

^a The Upper Yukon River catch includes the estimated harvest to produce roe sold.

Missing data indicates no harvest and zeros indicate harvest activity but <1,000. Columns and rows do not total exactly due to rounding.

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Southeast

- SE/Yakutat

Central

- Prince William Sound
- Cook Inlet
- Bristol Bay

A-Y-K

- Norton Sound/Kotzebue
- Yukon
- Kuskokwim

Westward

- Kodiak
- Chignik
- Alaska Peninsula
- Bristol Bay (Crab)

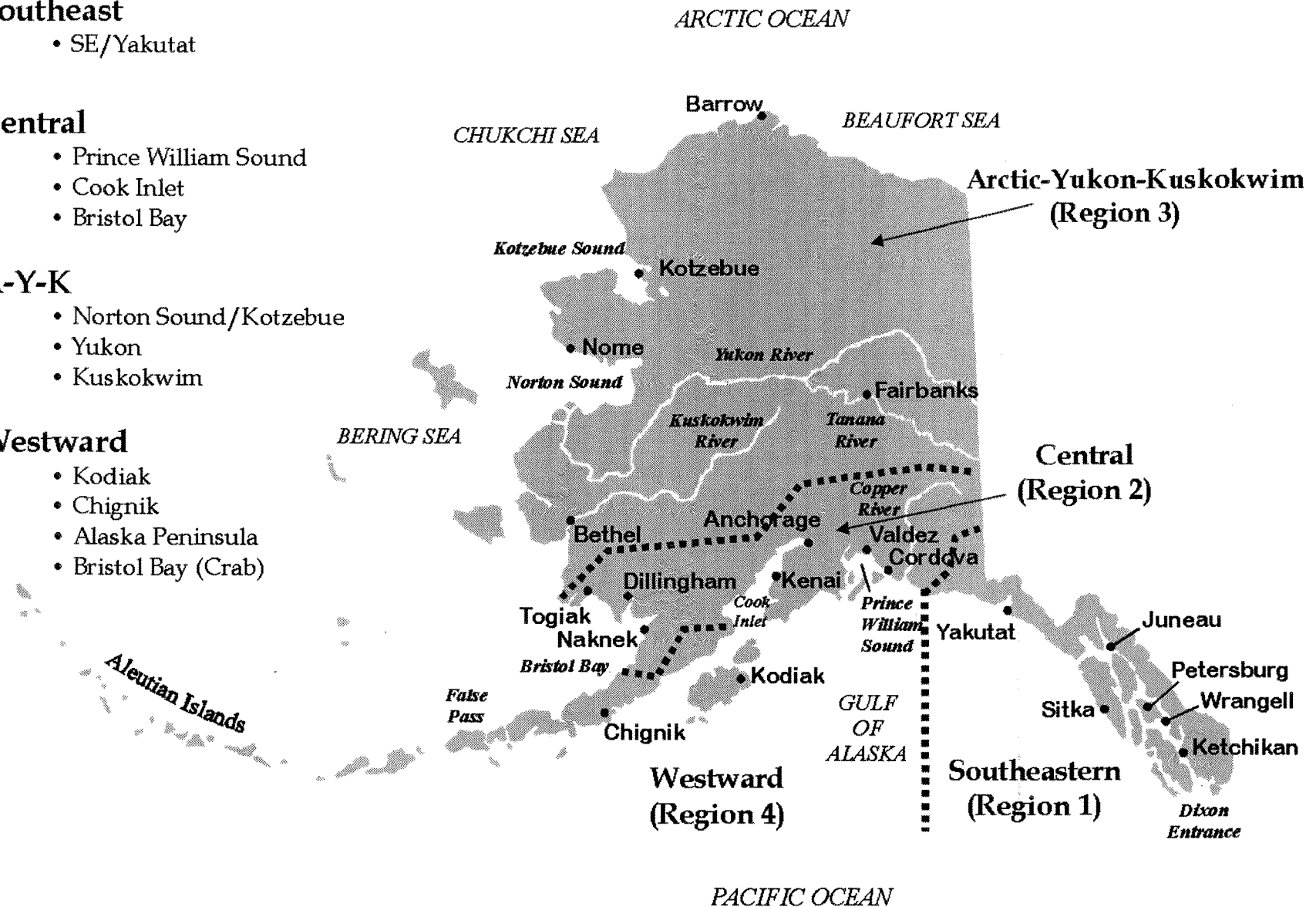


Figure 1. The four management regions (Southeast, Central, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Westward) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division.

Chinook Salmon



Figure 2. Actual catch, in thousands, for Alaska chinook salmon from 1970 to 1996.

Sockeye Salmon

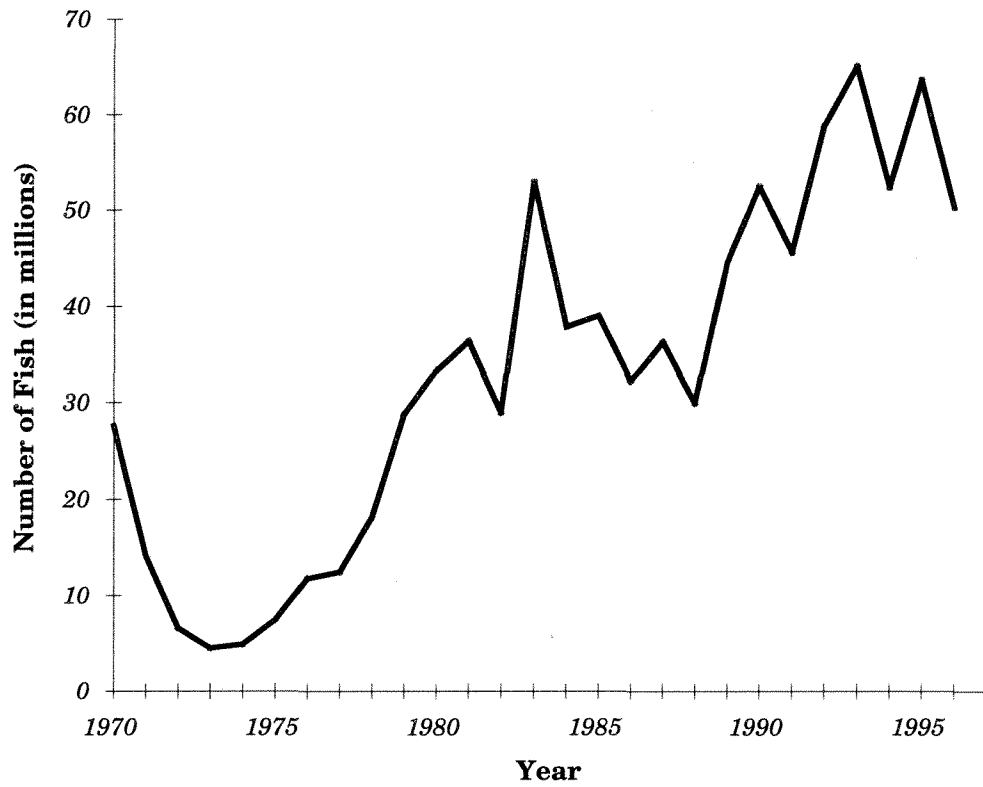


Figure 3. Actual catch, in millions, for Alaska sockeye salmon from 1970 to 1996.

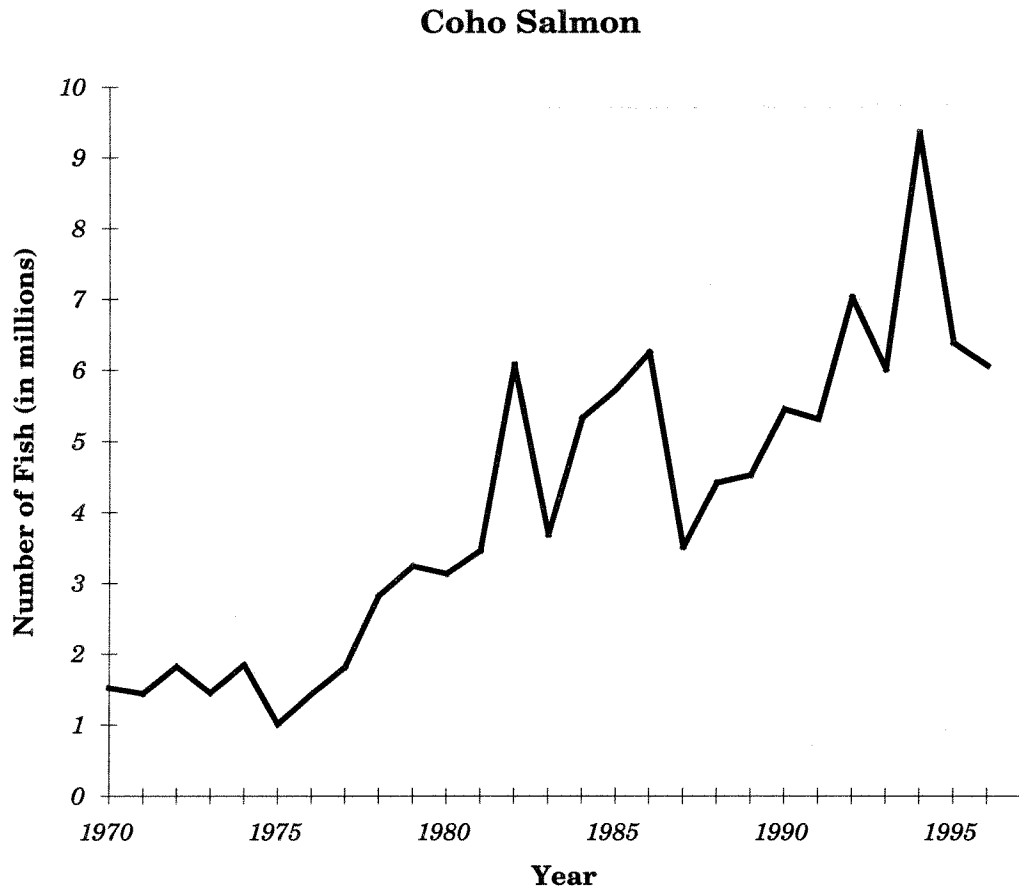


Figure 4. Actual catch, in millions, for Alaska coho salmon from 1970 to 1996.

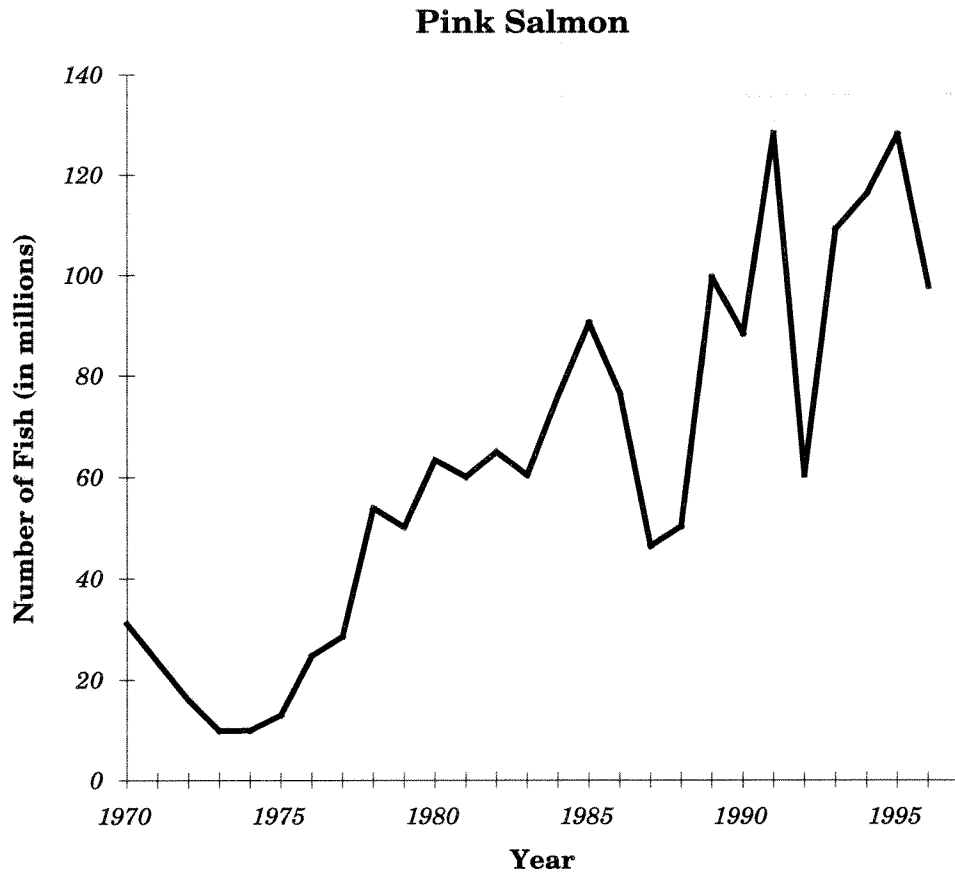


Figure 5. Actual catch, in millions, for Alaska pink salmon from 1970 to 1996.

Chum Salmon

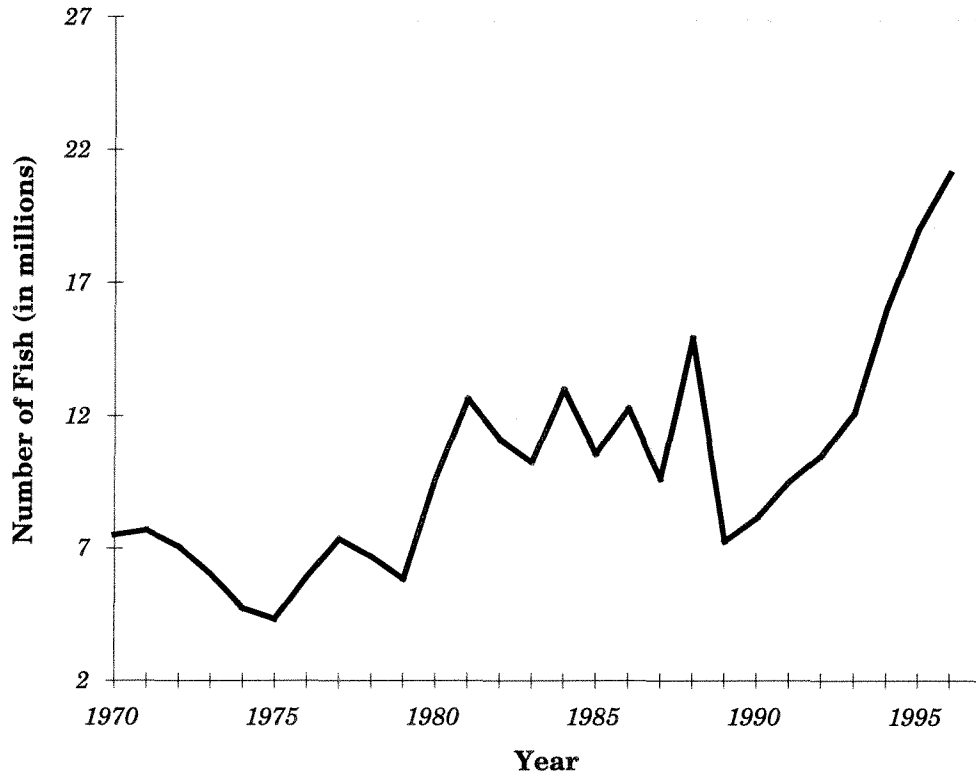


Figure 6. Actual catch, in millions, for Alaska chum salmon from 1970 to 1996.