

NPAFC
Doc. No. 472
Rev. No.

Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases
and Commercial Catch Statistics for the 1999 Season

by

Marianne McNair

and

Harold J. Geiger

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

Submitted to the

NORTH PACIFIC ANADROMOUS FISH COMMISSION

By

THE UNITED STATES PARTY

September, 2000

THIS PAPER MAY BE CITED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

Marianne McNair and Harold J. Geiger. 2000. Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases and Commercial Catch Statistics for 1999 Season. (NPAFC Doc. 472) 6p. Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Commercial Fisheries, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526.

Hatchery Releases

In 1999 there were 30 private nonprofit, 3 federal (including Bureau of Indian Affairs) and 3 state salmon hatcheries operating in Alaska. Most (23) of these facilities are located in southeast Alaska. The Cook Inlet-Prince William Sound region has 11 hatcheries, and the Kodiak region has 2 hatcheries.

Alaskan hatcheries released approximately 1.4 billion fish (Table 1). Of the fish released, 61% were pink salmon. Hatcheries in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet contributed 58% of the fish released.

Commercial Catch Statistics

The preseason expectation for the 1999 commercial salmon season was for a commercial harvest of 148 million salmon in Alaskan waters. As it turned out, the all-species catch reached 216 million – barely missing the all-time catch record of 218 million from 1995. In 1999, the overall catch of sockeye salmon was considerably higher than expected (an actual catch of 41.2 million compared to the preseason projection of 29.0 million). Notably, the statewide pink salmon catch of 146 million was far above expectations – setting a new statewide record – with pink salmon catch records set in Southeast Alaska and in Prince William Sound. Although statewide chum salmon catches were above expectation, runs of Western Alaska chum salmon were well below expectations once again. Table 2 shows 1999 harvest numbers by species and fishing area, in units of fish harvested, and Table 3 provides this information in units of pounds harvested.

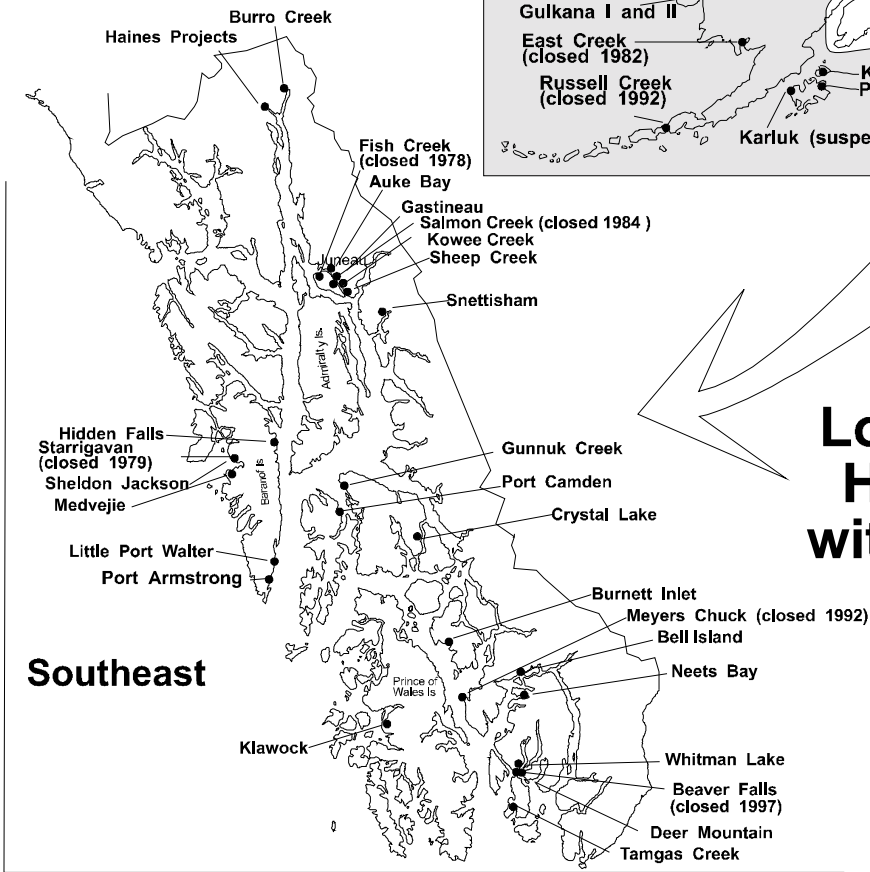
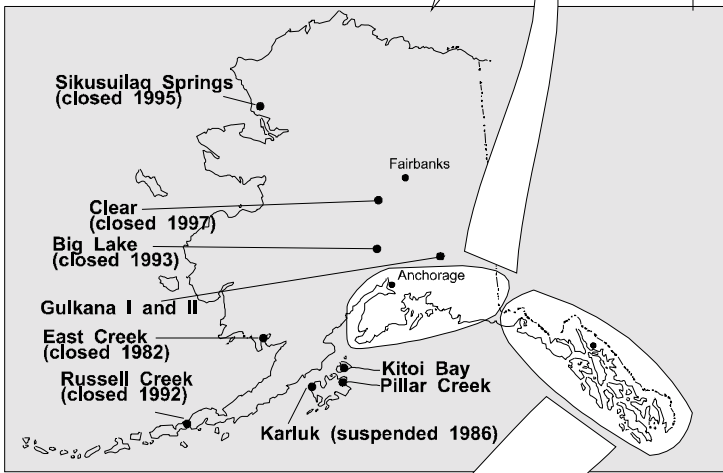
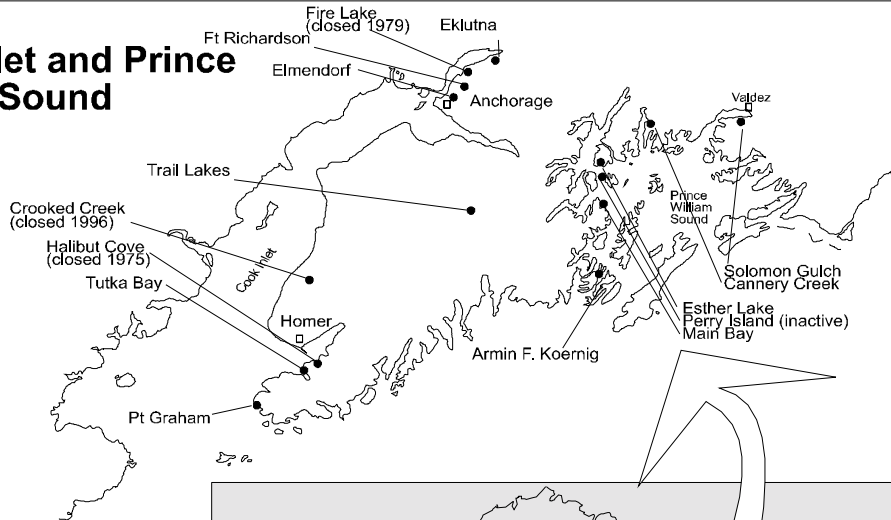
The exvessel value of the commercial harvest reversed its long downward trend. The preliminary estimate for the total value of Alaska's 1999 harvest is \$370 million – up from the estimates of \$261 million for 1998, \$297 million for 1997, yet down from \$378 million for 1996, \$487 million for 1995, and \$489 million for 1994.

Inseason harvest information, postseason statistics, and other information about salmon in Alaska can be found at <http://www.cf.adfg.state.ak.us/> .

Table 1. 1999 salmon releases, by region, from Alaskan hatcheries, in millions of fish.

Region/Location	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Sockeye	Other	TOTAL
1 Southeast	83.20	354.71	15.55	6.57	12.37	0.05	472.45
2 Cook Inlet/Prince William Sound	666.88	99.30	4.91	1.44	48.74	2.36	823.63
3 Kodiak	127.69	6.86	1.56	0.00	5.41	0.00	141.52
TOTAL	877.77	460.86	22.03	8.00	66.52	2.41	1,437.59

Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound



Locations of Hatcheries within Alaska

Southeast

Table 2. Preliminary 1999 Alaska commercial salmon harvests, by fishing area and species, thousands of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Southeast Region Total	190 ^a	1,160	3,570	77,700	14,900	97,500
Prince William Sound	63	2,030	245	45,000	2,990	50,300
Upper Cook Inlet	14	2,680	125	16	174	3,000
Lower Cook Inlet	2	477	8	1,140	8	1,640
Bristol Bay	28	25,300	20	0	716	26,000
Central Region Total	108	30,500	400	46,200	3,900	81,000
Kodiak Area	18	4,650	296	11,900	914	17,800
Chignik	3	3,120	89	1,690	141	5,000
South Peninsula	5	2,950	192	8,440	817	12,400
North Peninsula	5	1,780	54	4	50	1,890
Aleutian Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westward Region Total	31	12,500	631	22,000	1,920	37,100
AYK Region Total	97	81	47	0	269	500
Total Alaska	430	44,200	4,600	146,000	21,000	216,000

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

^a Total commercial harvest of chinook salmon for the October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999 catch accounting period.

Modified May 23, 2000

Note that totals for Westward Region coho and chum salmon have been modified from the original January 2000 estimates.

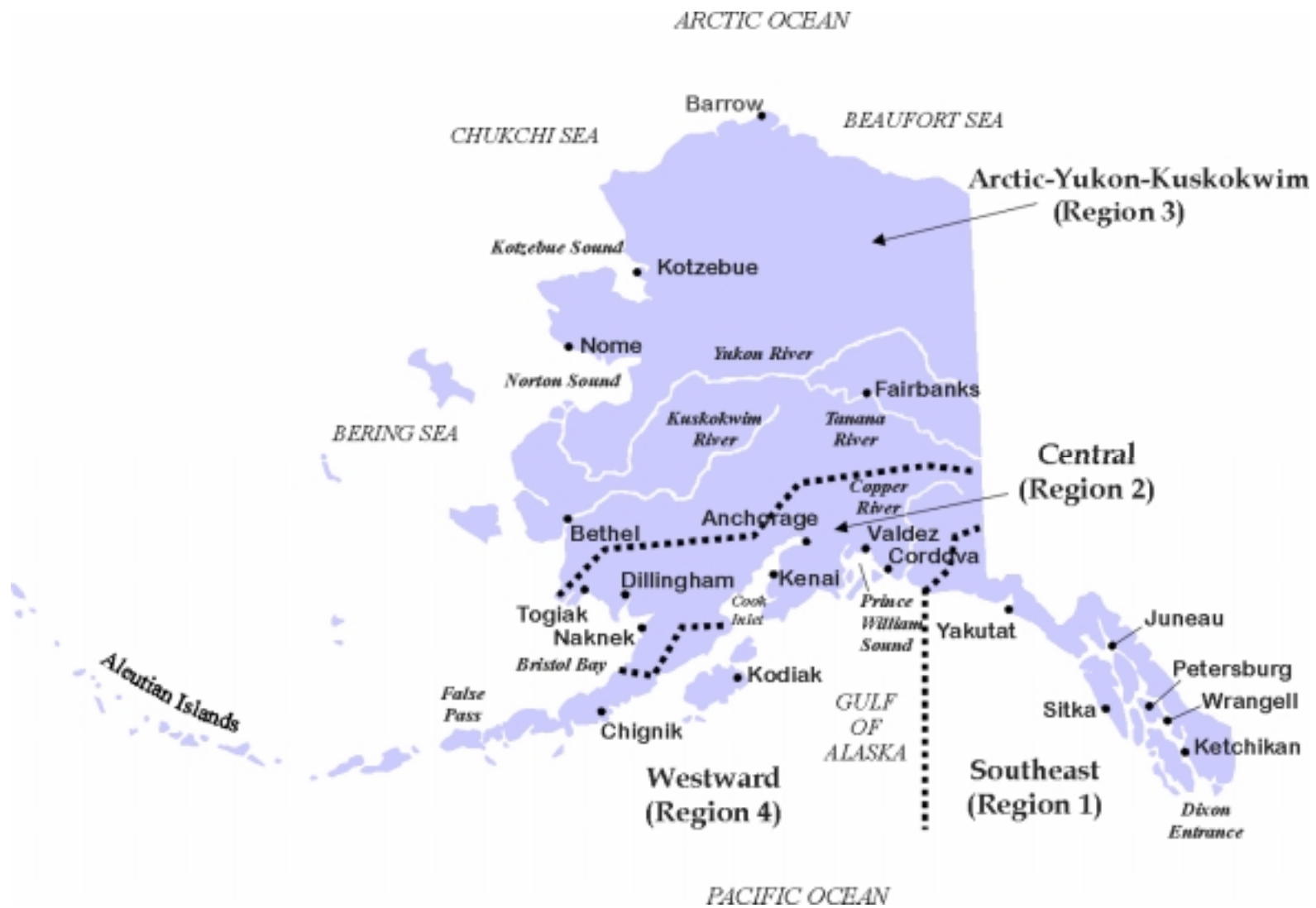
Table 3. Preliminary 1999 Alaska commercial salmon harvests by fishing area and species, in thousands of pounds.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	
Southeast Region Total	2,930	6,830	21,400	228,000	140,000	399,160
Prince William Sound	1,360	12,200	2,000	134,000	24,600	174,160
Upper Cook Inlet	337	15,400	732	50	1,400	17,919
Lower Cook Inlet	26	2,220	53	2,870	63	5,232
Bristol Bay	279	147,000	130	0	4,800	152,209
Central Region Total	2,000	177,000	2,900	137,000	30,900	349,800
Kodiak Area	233	24,500	2,200	36,400	7,240	70,573
Chignik	57	20,600	617	4,850	1,060	27,184
South Peninsula	87	16,100	1,150	25,900	5,560	48,797
North Peninsula	59	9,060	345	13	338	9,815
Aleutian Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westward Region Total	400	70,300	4,300	67,200	14,200	156,400
AYK Region Total	1,810	530	302		2,100	4,742
Total Alaska	7,200	254,000	28,900	432,100	187,200	910,000

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

Columns may not total exactly due to rounding.

Modified January 14, 2000



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