

Preliminary 2003 Salmon Enhancement Production in Japan

by

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Four species of Pacific salmon (chum, pink, masu, and sockeye salmon) are currently enhanced in Japan. A total of 2 billion fish were released from hatcheries in 2003 (Tables 1 and 2). Approximately 1,841 million chum salmon fry were released in the spring of 2003, the almost same level as in the previous year. Hatcheries also released 144 million pink salmon fry, 15,045 thousand juveniles and smolts of masu salmon, and 158 thousand juveniles and smolts of sockeye salmon.

In 2003, a total of 6,346 thousand adult salmon were captured in rivers along the Japanese coasts (Tables 3 and 4). Chum and pink salmon accounted for 81.0 % and 18.6 % of the total river catches, respectively. Within Hokkaido, the number of adult returns was 18,490 fish for anadromous masu salmon, and 267 fish for anadromous sockeye salmon. The adult returns of both species increased from the previous year.

Table 1. Number (in thousands) of anadromous salmon releases from Japanese hatcheries in 2003.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	654,611	157.6	603,195	50,532	726
Japan Sea Coast	193,568	0	186,540	0	7,028
Okhotsk Sea Coast	310,660	0	216,444	93,496	720
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	657,803	0	656,857	0	946
Japan Sea Coast	183,188	0	177,563	0	5,625
Total	1,999,830	157.6	1,840,599	144,028	15,045

Table 2. Weight (in tonnes) of anadromous salmon releases from Japanese hatcheries in 2003.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	862.1	2.7	822	31.7	5.7
Japan Sea Coast	259.8	0	206	0	53.8
Okhotsk Sea Coast	288.2	0	248	35.2	5.0
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	918.1	0	906	0	12.1
Japan Sea Coast	206.0	0	180	0	26.0
Total	2,534.2	2.7	2,362	66.9	102.6

Table 3. Number (in thousands) of adult salmon caught in rivers along Japanese coasts in 2003

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	1,374.6	0.3	1,256	118	0.3
Japan Sea Coast	411.6	**	407		4.6
Okhotsk Sea Coast	2,735.6	**	1,659	1063	13.6
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	1,495.6	**	1,495	**	**
Japan Sea Coast	328.4	**	326	**	**
Total	6,345.8	0.3	5,143	1181	18.5

** Data not available.

Table 4. Weight (in tonnes) of adult salmon caught in rivers along Japanese coasts in 2003.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	5,156.6	0.3	4,944	212	0.3
Japan Sea Coast	1,475.5	**	1,466		9.5
Okhotsk Sea Coast	8,466.4	**	6,536	1,918	12.4
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	5,726.0	**	5,726	**	**
Japan Sea Coast	1,184.0	**	1,184	**	**
Total	22,008.5	0.3	19,856	2,130	22.2

** Data not available.