

NPAFC
Doc. No. 809
Rev. No. _____

**Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases,
Commercial Fishery Catch Statistics, and Sport Fishery
Harvest Statistics for 2003 Season**

by

Douglas M. Eggers

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

Submitted to the

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

by

United States Party

October 2004

THIS PAPER MAY BE CITED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

Eggers, D. M. 2004. Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases, Commercial Fishery Catch Statistics, and Sport Fishery Catch Statistics for 2003 Season. (NPAFC Doc. No. 809) Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK. 99802-5526

Hatchery Releases

In 2003 there were 29 private nonprofit, 2 federal, and 2 state hatcheries operating in Alaska. Most of these facilities (22) are located in southeast Alaska (Figure 1). The Cook Inlet Prince William Sound region has 11 hatcheries and the Kodiak region has 2 hatcheries.

Alaskan hatcheries released approximately 1.5 billion fish (Table 1). Of the fish released 64% were pink salmon and 29% were chum salmon. Hatcheries in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet contributed 59% of the fish released.

Commercial Catch Statistics.

At this time last year, department biologists were expecting an all-species commercial catch of 150.9 million for the 2003 season. As it turned out, the all-species catch reached 177 million. In 2003, the overall catch of pink salmon was 123.3 million compared to the preseason projection of 92 million. The overall chum salmon catch was 17.8 million compared to the preseason projection of 23 million. Table 2 shows 2003 harvest numbers by salmon species and fishing area, in units of fish harvested, and Table 3 provides this information in metric tons harvested.

The 2003 ex-vessel value of the commercial harvest marked an increase over the 2002 season. The preliminary estimate for the total value of Alaska's 2003 harvest is \$195 million, above the \$162.5 million for 2002, but down from the low estimate of \$229 million for 2001, and significantly down from \$275 million in 2000, and the \$370 million for 1999, \$261 million for 1998, \$297 million for 1997, \$378 million for 1996, \$487 million for 1995, and \$489 million for 1994.

Sport Fishery Catch Statistics.

Sport fishery harvests in Alaska are in Table 4.

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

Table 1. 2003 salmon releases, by region from Alaskan hatcheries, in millions of fish.

Region/Location	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Sockeye	Other	Total
Southeast Alaska	84.53	318.20	17.67	7.17	12.62	0.05	440.24
Prince William Sound	607.94	98.65	2.20	0.00	32.82	0.00	741.61
Cook Inlet	125.17	0.00	1.71	2.09	18.82	1.76	149.55
Kodiak /Alaska Peninsula	144.82	18.72	1.52	0.03	1.85	0.00	166.94
Total	962.46	435.57	23.10	9.29	66.11	1.81	1,498.34

Table 2. Preliminary 2003 Alaska commercial salmon harvests^a by fishing area and species, in thousands of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total ^{b,c}
	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	
Southeast Region Total	1,525	52,516	11,115	2,498	412	68,066
Prince William Sound	2,730	51,976	3,804	522	49	59,080
Upper Cook Inlet	3,490	49	122	102	19	3,782
Lower Cook Inlet	644	857	6	11	1	1,520
Bristol Bay	14,766	0	933	43	48	15,790
Central Region Total	21,630	52,882	4,865	679	117	80,173
Kodiak Area	4,054	14,067	1,152	352	19	19,643
Chignik	1,100	503	64	104	3	1,774
South Alaska Peninsula & Aleutians Isl.	1,484	19	39	53	5	1,599
North Alaska Peninsula	1,055	4,263	640	132	3	6,093
Westward Region Total	7,693	18,851	1,895	641	29	29,109
AYK Region Total ^d	57	64	0	87	389	598
Total Alaska	30,906	124,313	17,875	3,906	947	177,947

^a Catch figures updated 9/22/04.

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

^c Columns may not total exactly due to rounding error.

Table 3. Preliminary 2003 Alaska commercial salmon harvests^a by fishing area and species, in metric tons of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total ^{b c}
	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	
Southeast Region Total	4,197	83,686	36,234	7,967	2,890	134,974
Prince William Sound	7,557	85,931	11,012	1,986	507	106,992
Upper Cook Inlet	9,320	79	382	301	171	10,254
Lower Cook Inlet	1,488	1,258	19	35	7	2,806
Bristol Bay	42,362	1	2,734	132	350	45,578
Central Region Total	60,727	87,268	14,146	2,453	1,035	165,630
Kodiak Area	9,859	22,653	3,743	1,228	86	37,569
Chignik	3,261	887	204	389	20	4,761
South Alaska Peninsula & Aleutians Isl.	3,977	27	119	203	26	4,353
North Alaska Peninsula	2,905	7,401	1,978	437	18	12,739
Westward Region Total	20,003	30,968	6,044	2,258	151	59,422
AYK Region Total ^d	210	0	289	1,392	487	2,378
Total Alaska	85,137	201,922	56,713	14,070	4,562	362,403

^a Catch figures updated 9/22/04.

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

^c Columns may not total exactly due to rounding error.

Table 4. Statewide Sport Harvest of Salmon in Alaska by region, freshwater and saltwater combined, 2003

Region	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho*	Chinook*	Steelhead
Southeast	27,076	74,196	21,114	322,882	69,370	149
Southcentral	412,365	59,895	10,486	450,231	98,275	218
A-Y-K	8,051	2,404	2,510	10,215	9,435	0
Statewide Total	447,492	136,495	34,110	783,328	177,080	367

* Does not include freshwater landlocked coho and chinook.

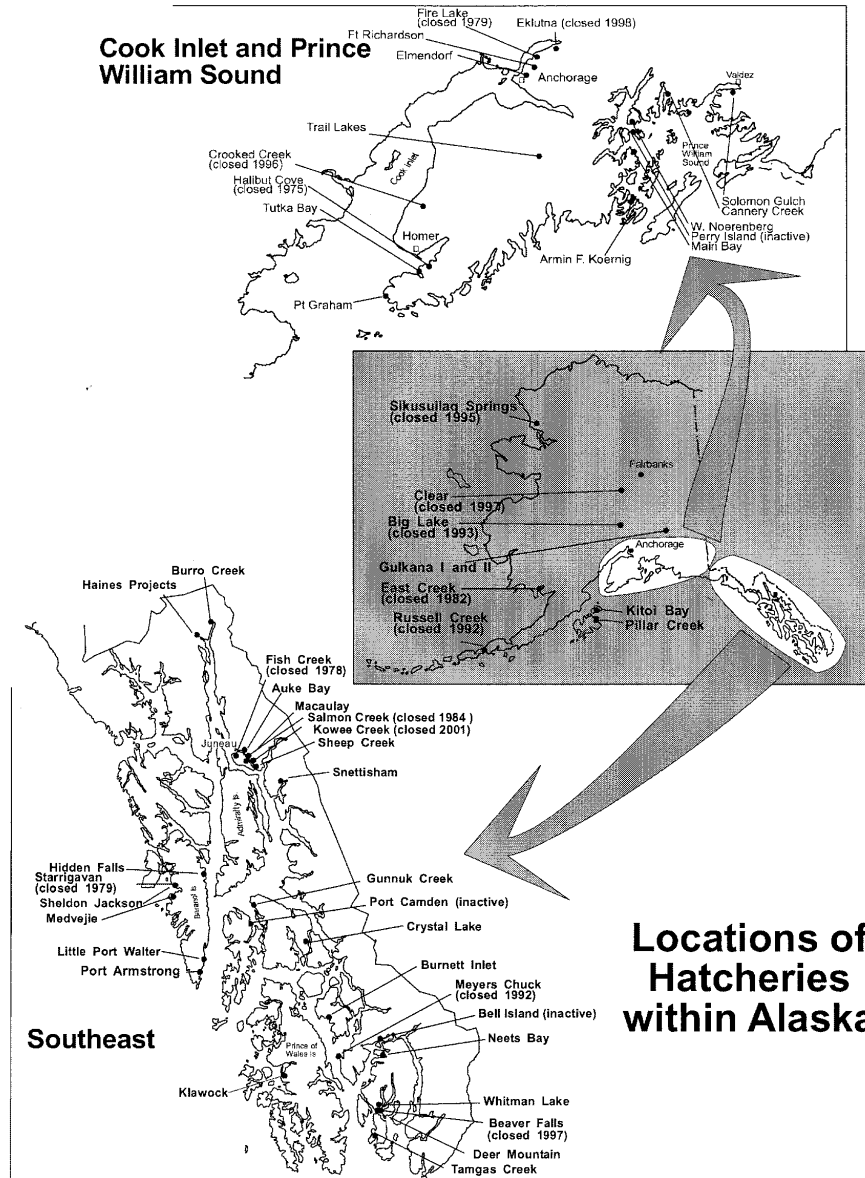


Figure 1. Location of hatcheries within Alaska.



Figure 2. The four fishery management regions (Southeast, Central, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Westward) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries.