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**Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases,
Commercial Fishery Catch Statistics, and Sport Fishery
Harvest Statistics for 2005 Season**

by

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Hatchery Releases

In 2005 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 1.43 billion fish (Table 1). Of the fish released 57% were pink salmon and 38% were chum salmon. Hatcheries in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet contributed 53% and hatcheries in Southeast Alaska contributed 36 % of the fish released.

Commercial Catch Statistics.

At this time last year, department biologists were expecting an all-species commercial catch of 181 million for the 2005 season. As it turned out, the all-species catch reached 222 million. The 2005 catch was a record harvest exceeding the previous record of 218 million recorded in 1995. In 2005, the overall catch of pink salmon was 161 million compared to the preseason projection of 114 million. The overall chum salmon catch was 11.8 million compared to the preseason projection of 17.6 million. Table 2 shows 2005 harvest numbers by salmon species and fishing area, in units of fish harvested, and Table 3 provides this information in units of pounds harvested.

The 2005 ex-vessel value of the commercial harvest showed a marked increase over the value of the catch for the previous three years. The preliminary estimate for the total value of Alaska's 2005 harvest is \$305 million and above the \$257 million for 2004, \$195 million for 2003, \$275 million in 2000; but down from the \$370 million for 1999.

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. 2005 salmon releases, by region from Alaskan hatcheries, in millions of fish.

| Region/Location | Pink | Chum | Coho | Chinook | Sockeye | Other | Total |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------|-------|----------|
| Southeast Alaska | 81.42 | 400.42 | 15.55 | 7.39 | 10.91 | 0.02 | 515.71 |
| Prince William Sound | 564.05 | 126.99 | 3.03 | 0.00 | 15.33 | 0.00 | 709.40 |
| Cook Inlet | 26.57 | 0.00 | 2.17 | 2.00 | 10.16 | 1.24 | 42.14 |
| Kodiak /Alaska Peninsula | 136.29 | 21.58 | 1.39 | 0.07 | 2.32 | 0.00 | 161.65 |
| Total | 808.33 | 548.99 | 22.14 | 9.46 | 38.72 | 1.26 | 1,428.90 |

Table 2. Preliminary 2005 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 | 449 | 1,608 | 3,003 | 59,167 | 6,428 | 70,655 |
| Prince William Sound | 36 | 1,989 | 532 | 59,945 | 2,099 | 64,601 |
| Upper Cook Inlet | 28 | 5,250 | 225 | 49 | 70 | 5,623 |
| Lower Cook Inlet | 1 | 233 | 9 | 2,307 | 99 | 2,648 |
| Bristol Bay | 77 | 24,525 | 75 | 3 | 1,397 | 26,077 |
| Central Region Total | 142 | 31,997 | 841 | 62,303 | 3,665 | 98,949 |
| Kodiak Area | 14 | 3,052 | 397 | 30,144 | 477 | 34,085 |
| Chignik | 3 | 1,152 | 7 | 194 | 9 | 1,365 |
| South Peninsula & Aleutians | 5 | 2,338 | 146 | 9,425 | 742 | 12,656 |
| North Peninsula | 9 | 3,118 | 69 | 4 | 43 | 3,242 |
| Westward Region Total | 32 | 9,661 | 618 | 39,767 | 1,271 | 51,349 |
| AYK Region Total | 64 | 121 | 359 | 0 | 395 | 940 |
| Total Alaska | 687 | 43,387 | 4,821 | 161,237 | 11,760 | 221,892 |

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

Columns may not total exactly due to rounding.

Modified October 13, 2005

Table 3. Preliminary 2005 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 | 6,355 | 9,069 | 18,369 | 207,111 | 57,087 | 297,991 |
| Prince William Sound | 781 | 11,740 | 4,178 | 207,217 | 16,525 | 240,441 |
| Upper Cook Inlet | 692 | 31,820 | 1,421 | 161 | 509 | 34,603 |
| Lower Cook Inlet | 9 | 992 | 61 | 7,858 | 845 | 9,766 |
| Bristol Bay | 1,263 | 155,010 | 523 | 9 | 9,108 | 165,913 |
| Central Region Total | 2,746 | 199,562 | 6,183 | 215,245 | 26,987 | 450,722 |
| Kodiak Area | 169 | 16,735 | 2,987 | 102,807 | 3,732 | 126,431 |
| Chignik | 62 | 7,521 | 47 | 612 | 64 | 8,306 |
| South Peninsula & Aleutians | 65 | 14,320 | 898 | 30,266 | 4,893 | 50,443 |
| North Peninsula | 123 | 18,863 | 578 | 12 | 317 | 19,893 |
| Westward Region Total | 418 | 57,439 | 4,511 | 133,698 | 9,006 | 205,073 |
| AYK Region Total | 1,064 | 814 | 2,618 | 0 | 2,897 | 7,393 |
| Total Alaska | 10,583 | 266,884 | 31,681 | 556,054 | 95,977 | 961,179 |

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

Columns may not total exactly due to rounding.

Modified October 13, 2005

Table 4. Statewide Sport Harvest of Salmon in Alaska by region, freshwater and saltwater combined, 2005

| Region | Sockeye | Pink | Chum | Coho* | Chinook* | Steelhead |
|------------------------|---------|--------|-------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Southeast | 16501 | 104331 | 15710 | 409303 | 86575 | 143 |
| Southcentral | 411382 | 78124 | 9625 | 514473 | 111664 | 496 |
| A-Y-K | 9237 | 3093 | 1479 | 14189 | 6229 | 0 |
| Statewide Total | 437120 | 185548 | 26814 | 937965 | 204468 | 639 |

* Does not include freshwater landlocked coho and chinook.

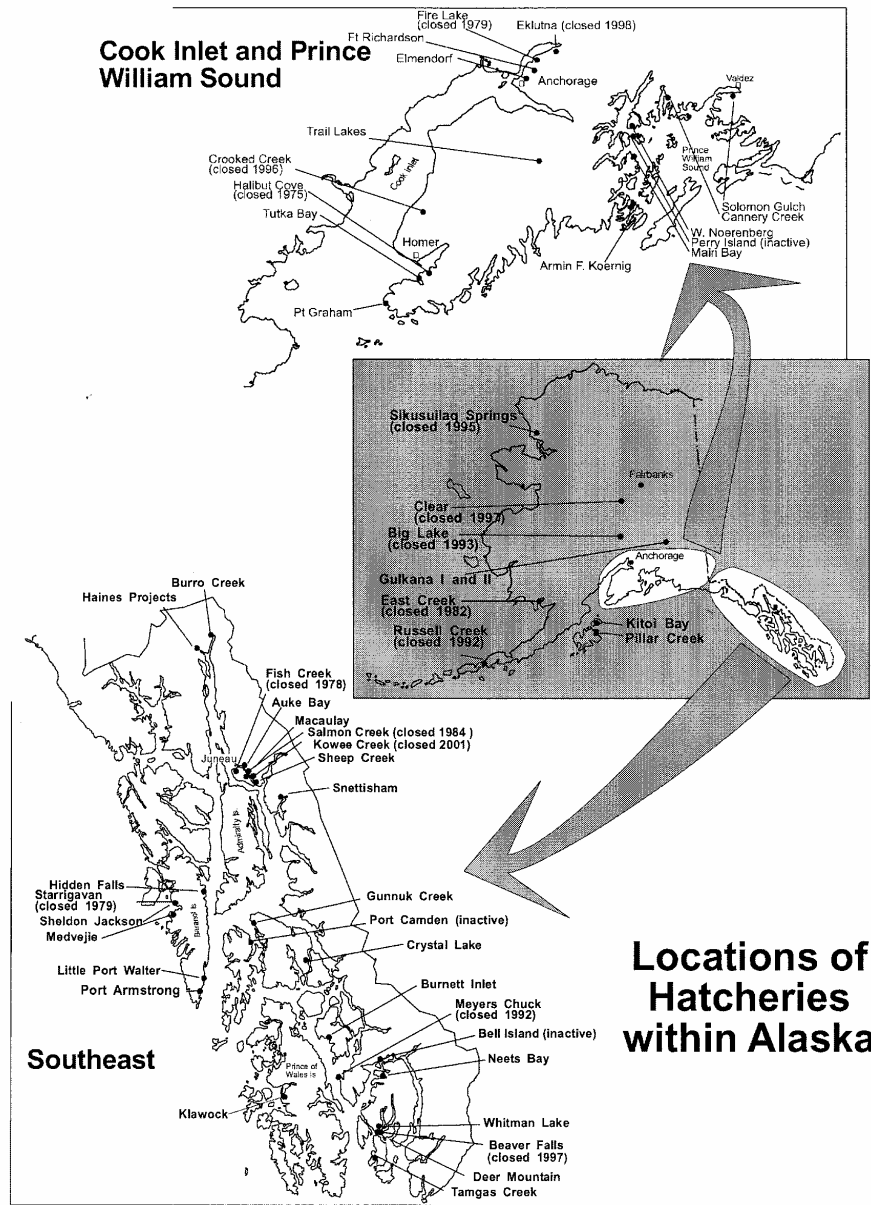


Figure 1. Location of hatcheries within Alaska.



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.