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**Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases,
Commercial Fishery Catch Statistics and Sport Fishery
Harvest Statistics for 2006 Season**

by

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Hatchery Releases

In 2006 there were 27 private nonprofit, 2 federal, and 2 state hatcheries operating in Alaska. Most of these facilities (18) 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 1.44 billion fish (Table 1). Of the fish released 56% were pink salmon and 38% were chum salmon. Hatcheries in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet contributed 56% and hatcheries in Southeast Alaska contributed 34 % of the fish released.

Commercial Catch Statistics

At this time last year, department biologists were expecting an all-species commercial catch of 161 million for the 2006 season. As it turned out, the all-species catch reached 141 million. While the 2006 catch was below forecast it still ranked as the 15th largest salmon catch for the State of Alaska. In 2006, the overall catch of pink salmon was 73 million compared to the preseason projection of 108 million. Lower than expected pink salmon catch in 2006 was due to a very weak pink salmon run to Southeast Alaska. The overall chum salmon catch was 21.1 million compared to the preseason projection of 17.6 million. Table 2 shows 2006 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 2006 ex-vessel value of the commercial harvest showed a slight decrease over the value of the catch in 2005. The preliminary estimate for the total value of Alaska's 2006 harvest is \$308 million and below the \$334 million in 2005, but above the \$272 million for 2004, and \$212 million for 2003.

Most of this summary of the 2006 salmon return is from Eggers, 2007.

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>

References

Eggers, D 2007. Run forecasts and harvest projects for 2007 Alaska salmon fisheries and review of the 2006 season. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Special Publication No. 07-01, Anchorage.

Table 1. 2006 salmon releases, by region from Alaskan hatcheries, in millions of fish.

| Region/Location | Pink | Chum | Coho | Chinook | Sockeye | Steelhead | Total |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Southeast Alaska | 79.6 | 377.4 | 16.5 | 8.5 | 13.2 | 0.01 | 495.3 |
| Prince William Sound | 599.5 | 146.0 | 2.6 | 0.2 | 28.7 | 0.00 | 776.9 |
| Cook Inlet | 13.9 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 6.7 | 0.00 | 24.1 |
| Kodiak /AK Pen/Westward | 115.7 | 17.8 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 4.9 | 0.00 | 139.9 |
| Total | 808.6 | 541.2 | 22.7 | 10.2 | 53.4 | 0.01 | 1,436.1 |

Table 2. Preliminary 2006 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 | 365 | 1,333 | 2,092 | 11,694 | 13,992 | 29,477 |
| Prince William Sound | 32 | 2,525 | 764 | 21,722 | 2,182 | 27,223 |
| Upper Cook Inlet | 18 | 2,203 | 179 | 405 | 65 | 2,871 |
| Lower Cook Inlet | 1 | 225 | 32 | 1,472 | 72 | 1,801 |
| Bristol Bay | 107 | 28,493 | 79 | 146 | 2,244 | 31,069 |
| Central Region Total | 157 | 33,446 | 1,055 | 23,744 | 4,562 | 62,964 |
| Kodiak Area | 20 | 1,586 | 556 | 31,694 | 1,082 | 34,939 |
| Chignik | 2 | 903 | 39 | 384 | 62 | 1,389 |
| South Peninsula & Aleutians | 6 | 1,854 | 170 | 5,256 | 1,188 | 8,473 |
| North Peninsula | 8 | 2,378 | 94 | 64 | 132 | 2,675 |
| Westward Region Total | 36 | 6,720 | 860 | 37,398 | 2,463 | 47,477 |
| AYK Region Total | 72 | 149 | 422 | 0 | 514 | 1,157 |
| Total Alaska | 630 | 41,649 | 4,428 | 72,837 | 21,532 | 141,076 |

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

Table 3. Preliminary 2006 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 | 5,487 | 7,556 | 14,304 | 46,945 | 124,889 | 199,180 |
| Prince William Sound | 646 | 14,116 | 6,824 | 78,288 | 19,008 | 118,882 |
| Upper Cook Inlet | 354 | 11,253 | 1,141 | 1,749 | 491 | 14,987 |
| Lower Cook Inlet | 9 | 1,013 | 239 | 5,235 | 599 | 7,095 |
| Bristol Bay | 1,796 | 164,500 | 511 | 542 | 13,807 | 181,155 |
| Central Region Total | 2,804 | 190,882 | 8,714 | 85,814 | 33,905 | 322,119 |
| Kodiak Area | 210 | 8,095 | 4,339 | 117,388 | 9,101 | 139,133 |
| Chignik | 40 | 5,849 | 292 | 1,403 | 451 | 8,035 |
| South Peninsula & Aleutians | 96 | 11,056 | 1,038 | 17,838 | 8,906 | 38,935 |
| North Peninsula | 87 | 13,329 | 703 | 224 | 967 | 15,309 |
| Westward Region Total | 432 | 38,329 | 6,372 | 136,854 | 19,425 | 201,412 |
| AYK Region Total | 1,219 | 949 | 2,676 | 0 | 3,616 | 8,460 |
| Total Alaska | 9,943 | 237,716 | 32,065 | 269,613 | 181,835 | 731,170 |

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

Table 4. Statewide Sport Harvest of Salmon in Alaska by region, freshwater and saltwater combined, 2006

| Region | Sockeye | Pink | Chum | Coho* | Chinook* | Steelhead |
|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Southeast | 20,828 | 38,990 | 10,639 | 209,577 | 85,794 | 198 |
| Southcentral | 316,254 | 62,740 | 8,332 | 425,981 | 110,209 | 195 |
| A-Y-K | 15,183 | 5,707 | 3,832 | 17,395 | 5,894 | 0 |
| Statewide Total | 352,265 | 107,437 | 22,803 | 652,953 | 201,897 | 393 |

* Does not include freshwater landlocked coho and chinook.

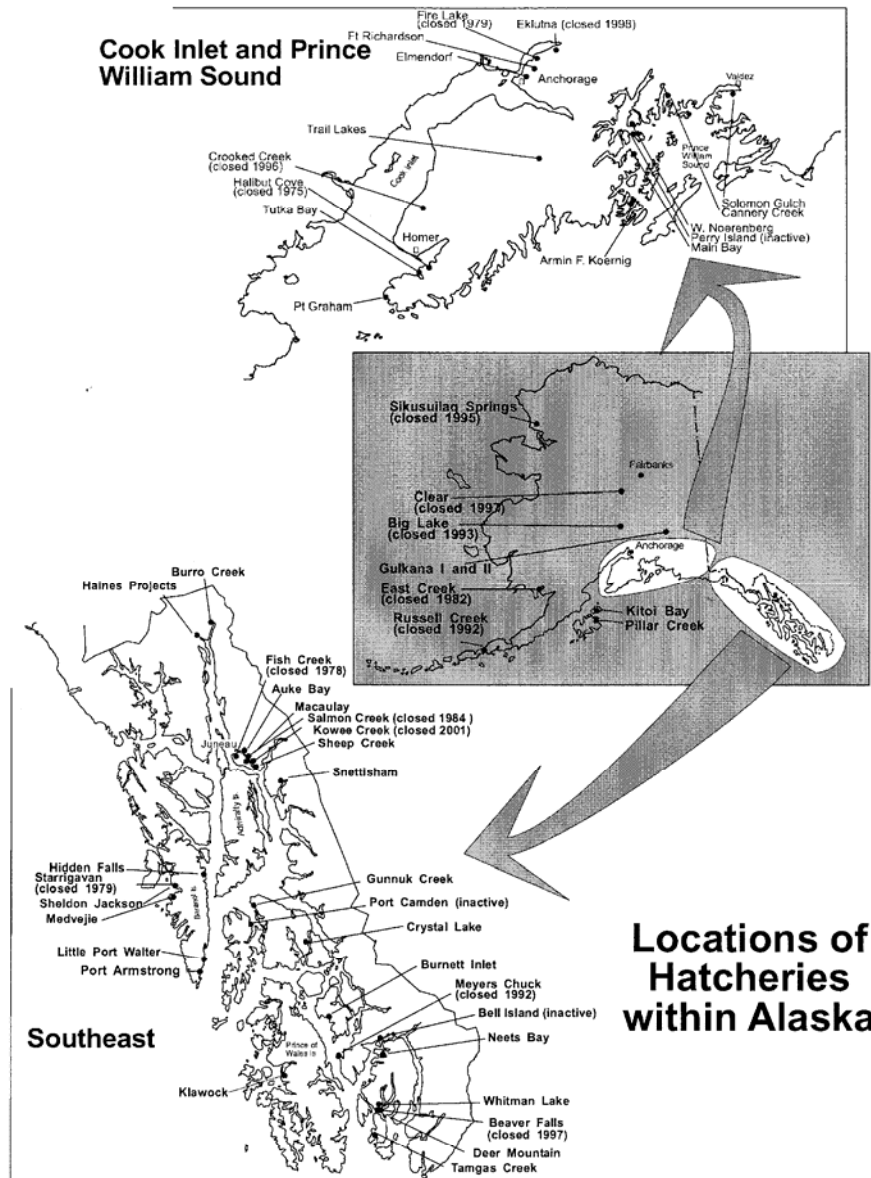


Figure 1. Location of hatcheries within Alaska.

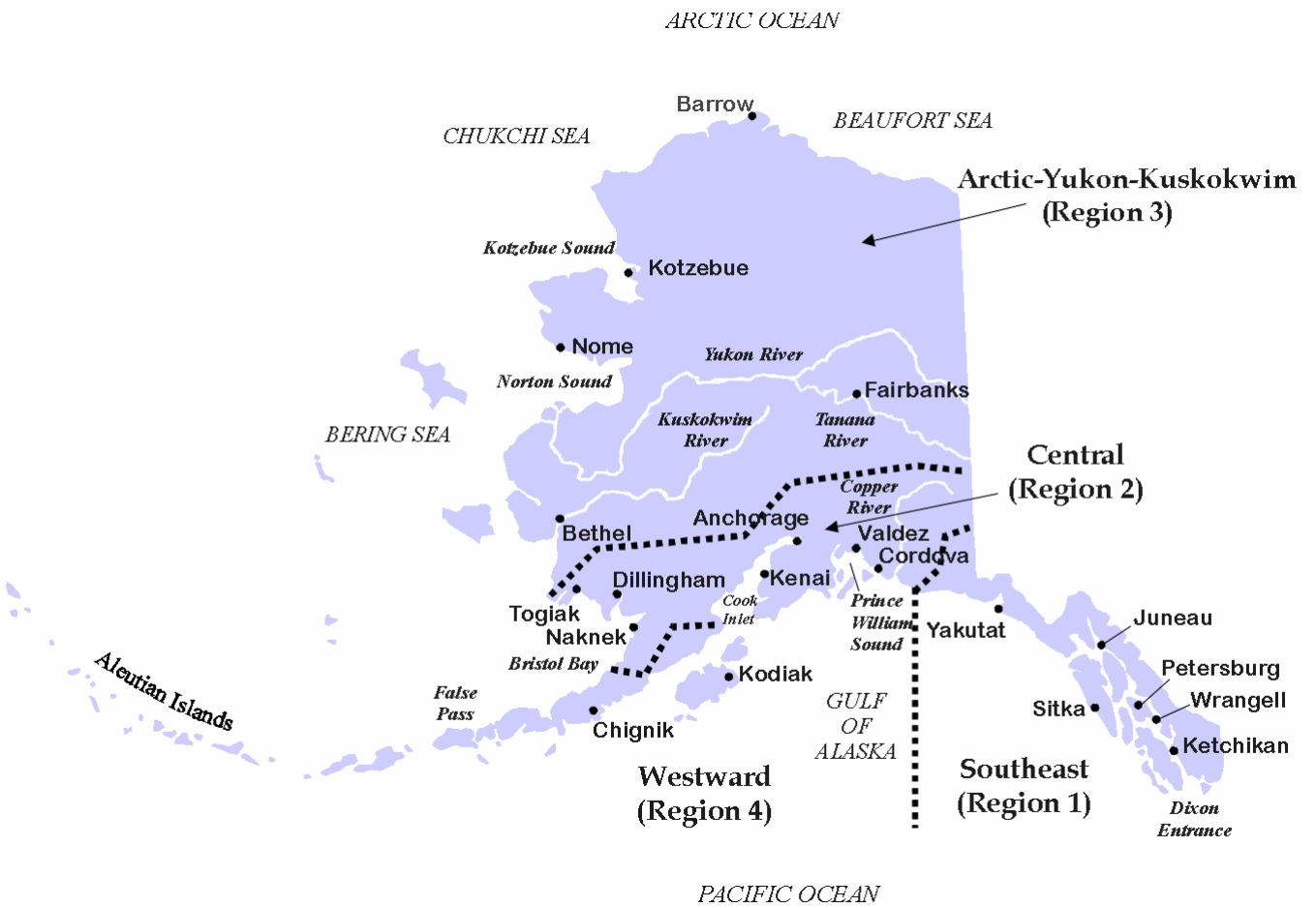


Figure 2. The four fishery management regions (Southeast, Central, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Westward) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries.