

**Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases,
Commercial Fishery Catch Statistics and Sport Fishery
Harvest Statistics for 2012 Season**

By

Eric C. Volk
and
Ronald P. Josephson

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

Submitted to the

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission

by

United States Party

October 2013

THIS PAPER MAY BE CITED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

Volk, E. C. and R. P. Josephson. 2013. Alaska salmon hatchery releases, commercial fishery catch statistics, and sport fishery catch statistics for 2012 season. NPAFC Doc. 1469, Rev. 1. 6 pp. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK. 99811-5526. (Available at <http://www.npafc.org>).

Hatchery Releases

In 2012 there were 26 private nonprofit, 3 federal, and 2 state hatcheries operating in Alaska. Most of these facilities (19) are located in Southeast Alaska (Figure 1). The Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound regions have 9 hatcheries and the Kodiak region has 2 hatcheries.

Alaskan hatcheries released approximately 1.7 billion fish in 2012 (Table 1). Of the fish released, 56% were pink salmon and 38% were chum salmon. Hatcheries in Prince William Sound contributed 51% and hatcheries in Southeast Alaska contributed 37% of the fish released.

Commercial Catch Statistics

The four principle fishery management regions in Alaska are shown in Figure 2. The Alaska salmon harvest of all species combined for 2012 totaled 127.5 million fish, which was about 5 million less than the preseason forecast of 132.1 million. In 2012, pink salmon catch was 68.0 million compared to the preseason projection of 70.2 million. Prince William Sound fisheries harvested 27.2 million, about 7.6 million below the projected harvest. The Southeast Alaska harvest of 21.3 million pink salmon was above the 17 million forecast but well below the recent 10-year average harvest of 39.6 million and the long term average since statehood of 30.0 million. The statewide chum salmon harvest of 20.2 million was nearly equal to a projected harvest of 19 million. Coho salmon catches of 3.2 million were below projections of 4.3 million. Statewide, sockeye salmon stocks were expected to yield a harvest of 38.4 million fish and provided 35.8 million fish. The Bristol Bay harvest of 20.9 million sockeye was slightly below forecast of 21.8 million. Cook Inlet's catch of 3.3 million sockeye salmon was below forecast of 4.6 million. The Chinook salmon catch of 353,000 was below average; however, Chinook catch outside of Southeast Alaska (75,000) was the lowest since 1940. Alaskan Chinook salmon appear to be showing coherent declining abundance trends among major runs throughout the state. In 2012, fishery disasters were declared for Chinook runs on the Yukon, Kuskokwim, and Kenai Rivers due to severe restrictions on subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries. The State of Alaska has engaged scientists, stakeholders and the public on development of a research and assessment plan to better understand and address these declines.

Table 2 shows 2012 harvest numbers by salmon species and fishing area, in units of fish harvested, and Table 3 provides this information in units of metric tonnes harvested. The preliminary estimate for the total exvessel value of Alaska's 2012 harvest was \$506 million.

Sport Fishery Catch Statistics

Sport fishery harvests in Alaska for 2012 are found in table 4. Inseason harvest information, postseason statistics, and other information about salmon in Alaska can be found at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov>

Table 1.—Anadromous salmon releases in 2012, by region, from Alaska hatcheries, in millions of fish.

Region/Location	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Steelhead	Total
Southeast Alaska	15.11	101.50	470.79	19.60	7.66		614.65
Prince William Sound	33.90	673.53	140.30	2.90	0.35		850.98
Cook Inlet	8.94	11.25	0.00	1.03	1.40		22.61
Kodiak/AK Pen/Westward	3.08	156.64	22.24	0.64	0.11		182.72
Total	61.04	942.92	633.34	24.16	9.52		1670.97

Table 2.–Preliminary 2012 Alaska commercial salmon catch by fishing area and species, in thousands of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	
Southeast Region Total	947	21,304	12,366	2,087	277	36,981
Prince William Sound	3,701	27,237	3,819	210	13	34,980
Upper Cook Inlet	3,146	471	272	107	3	3,999
Lower Cook Inlet	187	257	55	2	0	501
Bristol Bay	20,920	907	679	116	20	22,642
Central Region Total	27,954	28,872	4,825	435	36	62,122
Kodiak	2,239	16,875	866	210	15	20,205
Chignik	1,800	138	171	33	4	2,146
South Alaska Peninsula & Aleutians	2,001	651	614	87	8	3,361
North Alaska Peninsula	764	1	284	37	1	1,087
Westward Region Total	6,804	17,665	1,935	367	28	26,799
AYK Region Total	92	206	1,060	258	12	1,628
Total Alaska	35,797	68,047	20,186	3,147	353	127,530

NOTE: Columns and rows may not total exactly due to rounding.

Table 3.–Preliminary 2012 Alaska commercial salmon catch by fishing area and species, in round metric tonnes of fish.

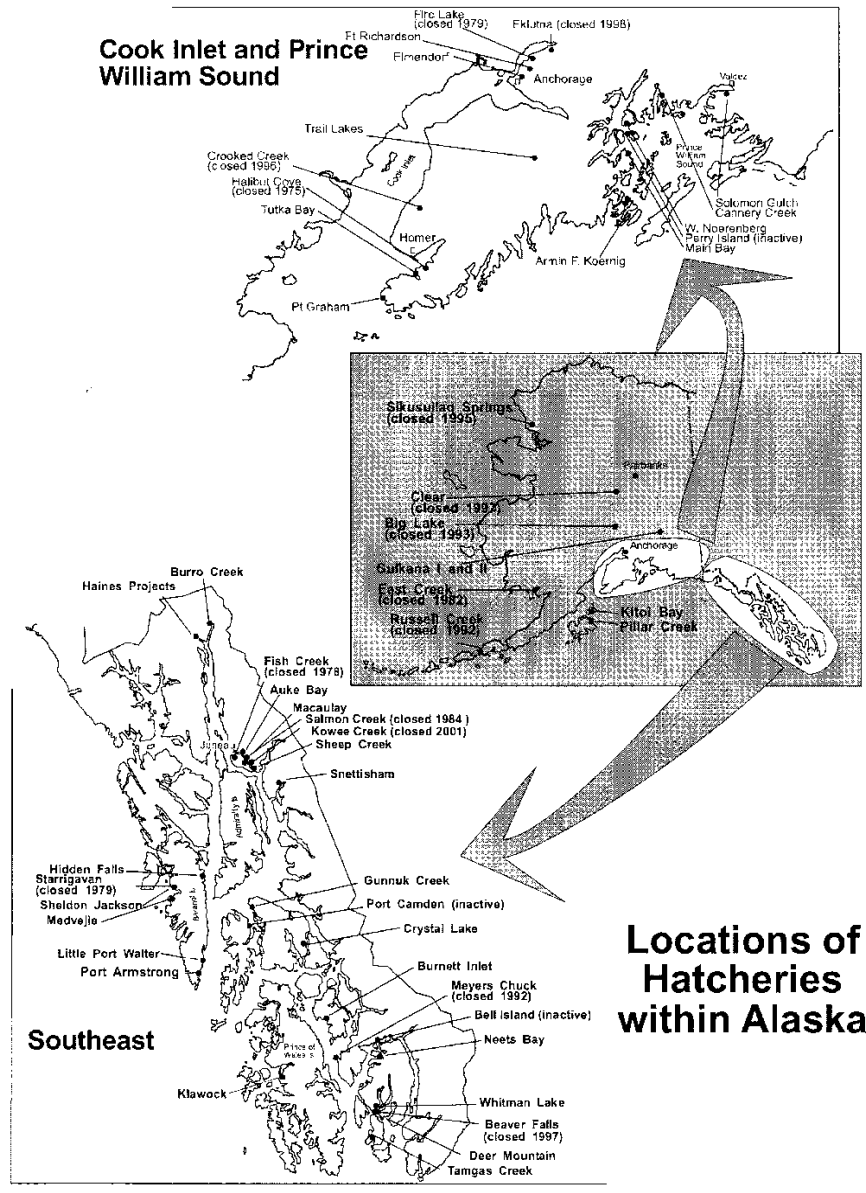
Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	
Southeast Region Total	2,692	34,542	51,214	6,399	1,846	96,693
Prince William Sound	11,380	48,585	12,341	773	119	73,198
Upper Cook Inlet	9,715	809	984	292	20	11,820
Lower Cook Inlet	421	370	214	6	1	1,012
Bristol Bay	54,164	1,280	1,945	287	122	57,798
Central Region Total	75,680	51,044	15,484	1,358	262	143,828
Kodiak	5,665	27,412	3,096	665	52	36,889
Chignik	5,564	205	696	102	23	6,590
South Alaska Peninsula & Aleutians	5,405	915	2,008	237	57	8,622
North Alaska Peninsula	1,998	2	967	116	8	3,091
Westward Region Total	18,632	28,534	6,767	1,120	140	55,192
AYK Region Total	281	223	3,187	720	59	4,470
Total Alaska	97,285	114,344	76,652	9,596	2,307	300,183

NOTE: Columns and rows may not total exactly due to rounding.

Table 4. Statewide Sport Harvest of Salmon in Alaska by region, freshwater and saltwater combined, 2012.

Fishing Area	Species						Total
	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho ¹	Chinook ¹	Steelhead	
Southeast	14,736	92,355	21,615	254,752	69,565	134	453,157
Southcentral	436,113	64,974	8,903	397,945	59,855	248	968,038
Artic-Yukon-Kuskokwim	13,809	1,642	1,177	12,303	3,908	0	32,839
Total Alaska	464,658	158,971	31,695	665,000	133,328	382	1,454,034

¹ Does not include freshwater landlocked coho and Chinook salmon harvest.



Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound

Southeast

Locations of Hatcheries within Alaska

Figure 1.—Location of hatcheries within Alaska.

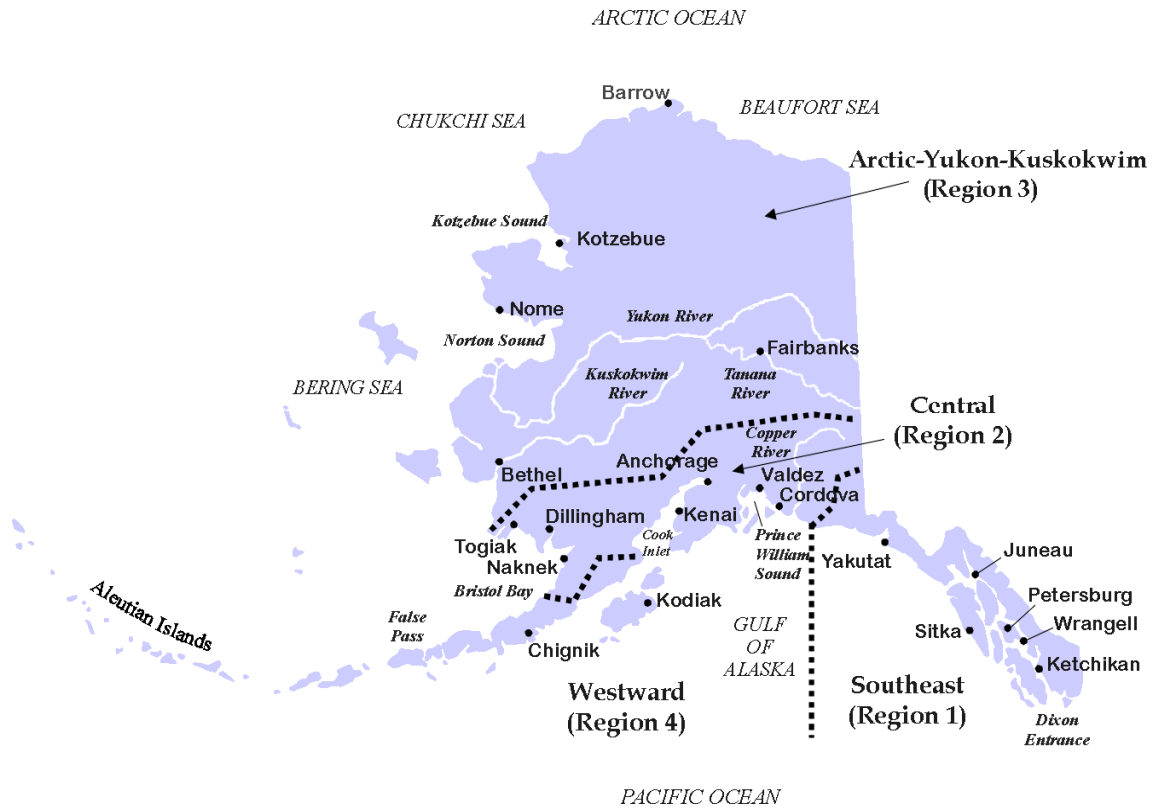


Figure 2.—The four fishery management regions (Southeast, Central, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Westward) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries.