

Preliminary 2020 Salmon Enhancement Production in Japan

by

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Four species of anadromous Pacific salmon (chum, pink, masu, and sockeye salmon) are currently enhanced in Japan. A total of 1,593 million fry, juveniles and smolts were released from Japanese hatcheries in 2020 (Tables 1 and 2). Number of chum salmon fry released in the spring of 2020 was approximately 1,470 million fish. Japanese hatcheries also released 111 million pink salmon fry, 11,934 thousand masu salmon fry, juveniles and smolts, and 213 thousand sockeye salmon fry and smolts in the spring and fall of 2020.

In 2020, the number of adult salmon captured in rivers along the Japanese coasts was 3,869 thousand fish (Table 3), which corresponded to 10,424 metric tonnes in weight (Table 4). The dominant and second dominant species were chum and pink salmon, contributing 80.7% and 18.9% in numbers of all salmon captured in rivers, respectively. Adult masu salmon occur in rivers of both Hokkaido and Honshu, but number of catches was not available in Honshu. The number of adult masu salmon caught in rivers of Hokkaido was approximately 15.5 thousand fish. Anadromous sockeye salmon were caught in two rivers along the Pacific coast of Hokkaido, where the number of catches was 1,292 fish.

Table 1. Number (in thousands) of anadromous salmon released from Japanese hatcheries in 2020.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	603,446	213	597,333	5,450	450
Japan Sea Coast	237,294		230,673	2,656	3,965
Okhotsk Sea Coast	398,549		294,592	102,769	1,188
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	247,820		245,318		2,502
Japan Sea Coast	105,703		101,874		3,829
Total	1,592,812	213	1,469,790	110,875	11,934

Table 2. Weight (in tonnes) of anadromous salmon released from Japanese hatcheries in 2020.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	843.8	2.1	837.2	1.9	2.6
Japan Sea Coast	301.9		256.1	0.6	45.2
Okhotsk Sea Coast	367.0		330.3	33.3	3.4
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	390.1		373.8		16.3
Japan Sea Coast	119.9		104.0		15.9
Total	2,022.7	2.1	1,901.4	35.8	83.4

Table 3. Number (in thousands) of adult salmon caught in rivers along Japanese coasts in 2020.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	713.8	1.3	674.5	36.8	1.2
Japan Sea Coast	665.7		658.1		7.6
Okhotsk Sea Coast	1,970.4		1,268.8	694.9	6.7
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	175.0		175.0		NA*
Japan Sea Coast	344.4		344.4		NA*
Total	3,869.3	1.3	3,120.8	731.7	15.5

*NA, Data not available.

Table 4. Weight (in tonnes) of adult salmon caught in rivers along Japanese coasts in 2020.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	2,135.6	1.5	2,089.5	43.3	1.3
Japan Sea Coast	1,854.6		1,837.8		16.8
Okhotsk Sea Coast	4,839.7		3,888.5	943.2	8.0
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	560.0		560.0		NA*
Japan Sea Coast	1,033.6		1,033.6		NA*
Total	10,423.5	1.5	9,409.4	986.5	26.1

*NA, Data not available.