

Preliminary 2021 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 1,521 million fry, juveniles and smolts were released from Japanese hatcheries in 2021 (Tables 1 and 2). The number of chum salmon fry released in the spring of 2021 was approximately 1,381 million fish. Japanese hatcheries also released 128 million pink salmon fry, 11,777 thousand masu salmon fry, juveniles and smolts, and 187 thousand sockeye salmon fry and smolts in the spring and fall of 2021.

In 2021, the number of adult salmon captured in rivers along the Japanese coasts was 2,422 thousand fish (Table 3), which corresponded to 7,110 metric tonnes in weight (Table 4). The dominant and second dominant species were chum and pink salmon, contributing 90.7% and 8.8% in numbers of all salmon captured in rivers, respectively. Adult masu salmon occur in rivers of both Hokkaido and Honshu, but the number of catches was not available in Honshu. The number of adult masu salmon caught in rivers of Hokkaido was approximately 12.8 thousand fish. Anadromous sockeye salmon were caught in two rivers along the Pacific coast of Hokkaido, where the number of catches was 637 fish.

Table 1. Number (in thousands) of anadromous salmon released from Japanese hatcheries in 2021.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	522,203	187	503,543	18,132	341
Japan Sea Coast	210,900		204,443	2,376	4,081
Okhotsk Sea Coast	369,125		260,043	107,975	1,107
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	304,182		301,682		2,500
Japan Sea Coast	114,746		110,998		3,748
Total	1,521,156	187	1,380,709	128,483	11,777

Table 2. Weight (in tonnes) of anadromous salmon released from Japanese hatcheries in 2021.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	707.8	1.6	699.1	4.5	2.6
Japan Sea Coast	235.4		207.7	0.5	27.2
Okhotsk Sea Coast	319.4		283.5	32.3	3.6
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	449.4		433.5		15.9
Japan Sea Coast	115.3		99.0		16.3
Total	1,827.3	1.6	1,722.8	37.3	65.6

Table 3. Number (in thousands) of adult salmon caught in rivers along Japanese coasts in 2021.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	470.0	0.6	467.1	1.0	1.3
Japan Sea Coast	524.2		516.2		8.0
Okhotsk Sea Coast	1,176.5		961.2	211.8	3.5
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	72.7		72.7		NA*
Japan Sea Coast	178.4		178.4		NA*
Total	2,421.8	0.6	2,195.6	212.8	12.8

*NA, Data not available.

Table 4. Weight (in tonnes) of adult salmon caught in rivers along Japanese coasts in 2021.

Area	Total	Species			
		Sockeye	Chum	Pink	Masu
Hokkaido					
Pacific Coast	1,416.3	0.7	1,412.9	1.3	1.4
Japan Sea Coast	1,584.9		1,569.8		15.1
Okhotsk Sea Coast	3,279.9		2,983.5	292.3	4.1
Honshu					
Pacific Coast	229.6		229.6		NA*
Japan Sea Coast	599.7		599.7		NA*
Total	7,110.4	0.7	6,795.5	293.6	20.6

*NA, Data not available.