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**Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases,
Commercial Fishery Catch Statistics, and Sport Fishery
Harvest Statistics for 2002 Season**

by

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Hatchery Releases

In 2002 there were 29 private nonprofit, 3 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 1.48 billion fish (Table 1). Of the fish released 63% were pink salmon and 30% were chum salmon. Hatcheries in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet contributed 59% of the fish released.

Commercial Catch Statistics.

The preseason expectation for the 2002 commercial salmon season was for a commercial catch of 133 million. As it turned out, the all-species catch reached 131.3 million. In 2002, the overall catch of pink salmon was as expected with the actual catch of 87.3 million compared to the preseason projection of 87.5 million. Table 2 shows 2002 harvest numbers by species and fishing area, in units of fish harvested, and Table 3 provides this information in units of pounds harvested.

The ex-vessel value of the commercial harvest continued its long downward trend. The preliminary estimate for the total value of Alaska's 2002 harvest is \$144 million down further from the low estimate of \$229 million for 2001; and significantly down from the \$275 million in 2000, and the \$370 million for 1999, \$261 million for 1998, \$297 million for 1997, \$378 million for 1996, \$487 million for 1995, and \$489 million for 1994.

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. 2002 salmon releases, by region, from Alaskan hatcheries, in millions of fish.

Region/Location	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Sockeye	Other	Total
Southeast	75.48	329.97	14.55	6.60	12.63	0.03	439.26
Prince William Sound	603.41	101.26	2.33	0.00	33.76	0.00	740.76
Cook Inlet	105.97	0.00	1.75	1.77	18.91	0.95	129.35
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula	152.99	19.59	1.57	0.06	1.34	0.00	175.55
Total	937.85	450.82	20.20	8.43	66.64	0.98	1,484.92

Table 2. Preliminary 2002 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	389	806	3,243	45,331	7,455	57,224
Prince William Sound	40	2,263	651	18,951	6,374	28,279
Upper Cook Inlet	13	2,811	250	471	243	3,788
Lower Cook Inlet	2	291	8	1,946	26	2,273
Bristol Bay	45	10,679	8	1	468	11,201
Central Region Total	100	16,044	917	21,369	7,111	45,540
Kodiak Area	19	1,831	504	18,329	650	21,333
Chignik	2	1,051	49	66	55	1,222
South Peninsula & Aleutians	4	1,418	29	21	51	1,523
North Peninsula	6	1,037	203	2,171	820	4,237
Westward Region Total	31	5,337	784	20,587	1,576	28,315
AYK Region Total	37	24	116	0	58	235
Total Alaska	557	22,211	5,060	87,287	16,200	131,315

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

Modified Oct. 1, 2003

Table 3. Preliminary 2002 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	6,266	5,039	24,417	150,574	69,714	256,010
Prince William Sound	830	14,453	6,096	65,795	52,583	139,758
Upper Cook Inlet	284	18,060	1,673	1,784	1,907	23,708
Lower Cook Inlet	22	1,497	65	6,576	214	8,374
Bristol Bay	816	64,975	59	2	3,150	69,001
Central Region Total	1,951	98,986	7,893	74,157	57,854	240,841
Kodiak Area	193	10,347	3,883	67,510	5,062	86,996
Chignik	14	7,245	361	207	407	8,233
South Peninsula & Aleutians	59	7,634	258	66	373	8,390
North Peninsula	79	5,943	1,328	7,914	5,976	21,239
Westward Region Total	344	31,169	5,829	75,697	11,818	124,858
AYK Region Total	658	161	908	0	449	2,176
Total Alaska	9,220	135,356	39,048	300,428	139,835	623,886

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

Columns may not total exactly due to rounding.

Modified Oct. 1, 2003

Table 4. Statewide Sport Harvest of Salmon in Alaska by region, freshwater and saltwater combined, 2002

Region	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho*	Chinook*	Steelhead
Southeast	18,471	86,206	14,569	296,928	74,522	102
Southcentral	401,882	105,826	14,279	537,486	81,724	432
A-Y-K	8,712	4,605	3,128	15,253	10,216	0
Statewide Total	429,065	196,637	31,976	849,667	166,462	534

* Does not include freshwater landlocked coho and chinook.

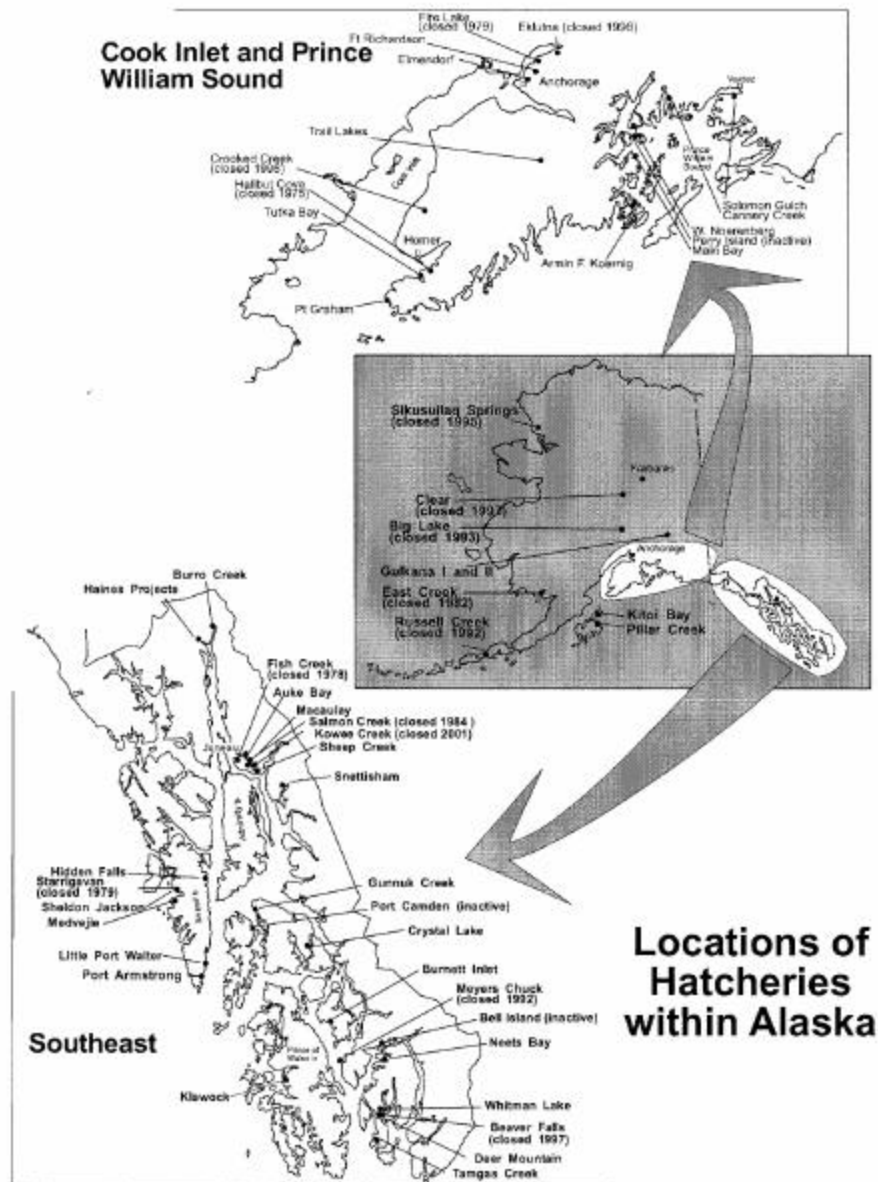


Figure 1. Location of hatcheries within Alaska.



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.