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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.

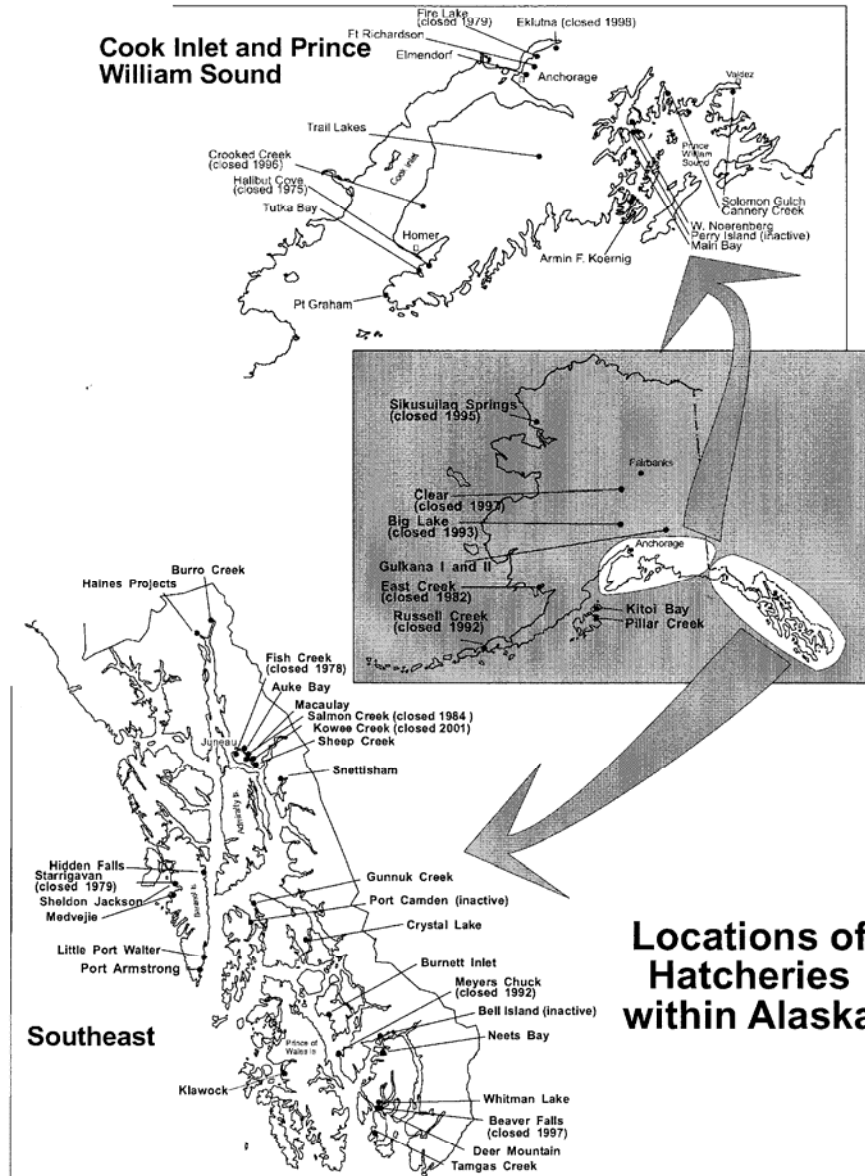


Figure 1. Location of hatcheries within Alaska.

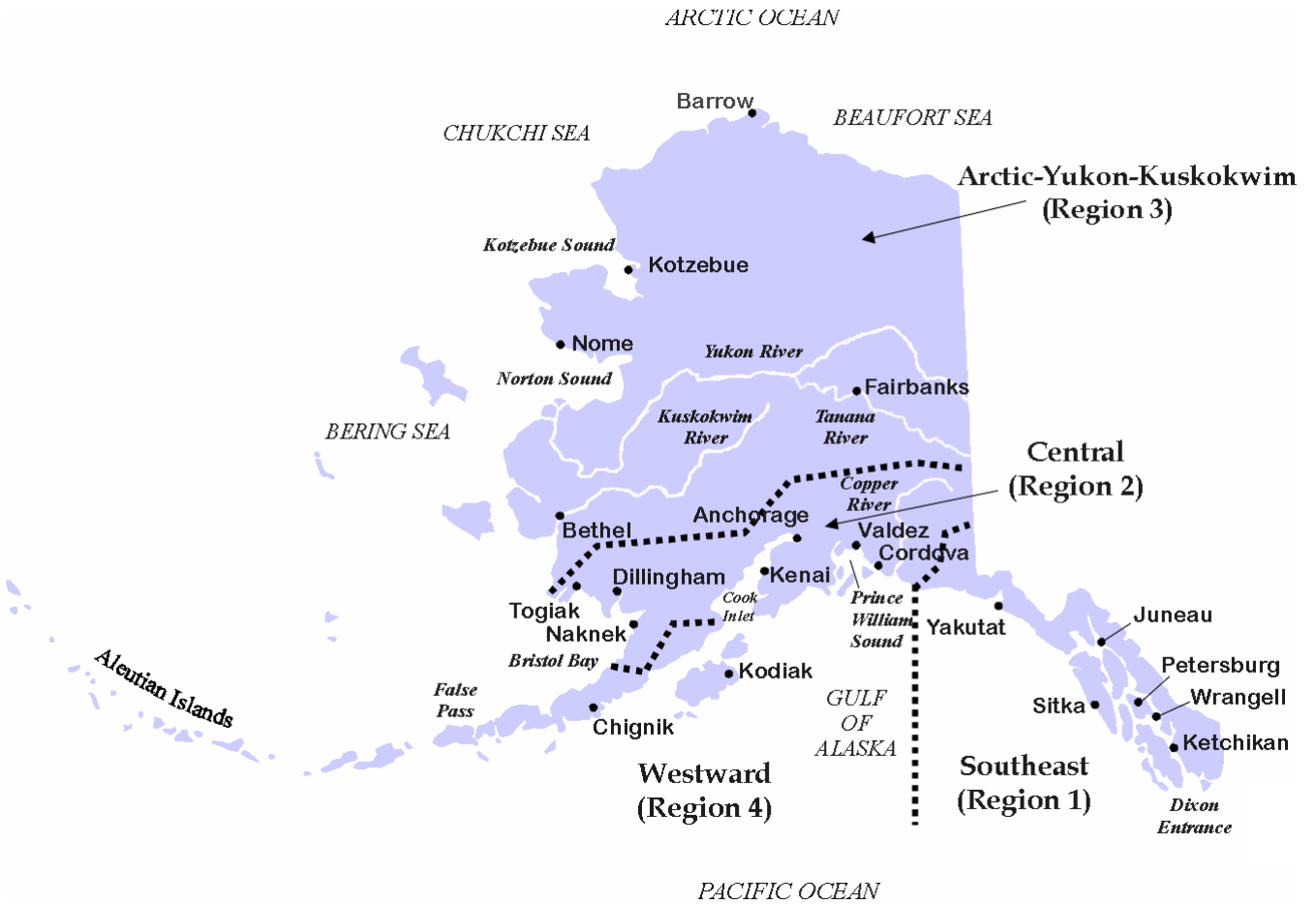


Figure 2. The four fishery management regions (Southeast, Central, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Westward) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries.