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Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases, Commercial Fishery Catch Statistics and Sport Fishery Harvest Statistics for 2007 Season

by

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Hatchery Releases

In 2007 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 and Prince William Sound region has 11 hatcheries and the Kodiak region has 2 hatcheries.

Alaskan hatcheries released approximately 1.56 billion fish (Table 1). Of the fish released 55% were pink salmon and 39% were chum salmon. Hatcheries in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet contributed 52% and hatcheries in Southeast Alaska contributed 37% of the fish released.

Commercial Catch Statistics

At this time last year, department biologists were expecting an all-species commercial catch of 179 million for the 2007 season. As it turned out, the all-species catch reached 213 million. The 2007 catch was well above forecast and ranked as the 4th largest salmon catch for the State of Alaska since 1960. In 2007, the overall catch of pink salmon was 144 million compared to the preseason projection of 108 million. Higher than expected pink salmon catch in 2007 was due to a record pink salmon return to Prince William Sound. The overall chum salmon catch was 17.2 million compared to the preseason projection of 24.8 million. Table 2 shows 2007 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 2007 ex-vessel value of the commercial harvest showed a large increase over the value of the catch in 2006. The preliminary estimate for the total value of Alaska's 2007 harvest is \$417 million well above the \$346 million in 2006, and while below record highs it is the greatest since \$487 million in 1995.

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. Salmon releases in 2007 by region from Alaska hatcheries, in millions of fish.

Region/Location	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead	Total
Southeast Alaska	85.9	453.6	18.1	8.9	15.5	0.00	581.9
Prince William Sound	617.6	129.1	3.8	0.2	31.3		782.0
Cook Inlet	13.3		1.9	1.2	12.7		29.0
Kodiak/AK Pen/Westward	140.9	22.0	1.6	0.2	4.0		168.7
Total	857.7	604.7	25.4	10.5	63.4	0.00	1,561.6

Table 2. Preliminary 2007 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	357	1,905	2,063	44,885	9,416	58,625
Prince William Sound	41	3,231	329	63,470	3,579	70,650
Upper Cook Inlet	18	3,327	178	147	78	3,748
Lower Cook Inlet	0	366	6	287	2	662
Bristol Bay	63	29,773	52	1	1,940	31,830
Central Region Total	122	36,698	565	63,906	5,598	106,890
Kodiak	17	2,014	357	24,811	729	27,928
Chignik	2	835	73	2,020	79	3,008
South Alaska Peninsula & Aleutians	5	2,450	152	8,324	681	11,612
North Alaska Peninsula	8	3,410	69	138	181	3,806
Westward Region Total	32	8,709	651	35,293	1,670	46,354
AYK Region Total	58	156	363	4	559	1,140
Total Alaska	569	47,468	3,642	144,087	17,243	213,009

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

Table 3. Preliminary 2007 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	5,222	12,153	12,834	161,444	77,090	268,742
Prince William Sound	897	20,237	2,811	213,455	24,799	262,199
Upper Cook Inlet	361	20,935	1,142	532	567	23,537
Lower Cook Inlet	8	1,656	42	924	12	2,642
Bristol Bay	847	173,334	335	5	11,751	186,272
Central Region Total	2,112	216,162	4,330	214,916	37,129	474,651
Kodiak	164	11,375	2,631	90,190	5,667	110,026
Chignik	30	5,809	544	7,388	648	14,420
South Alaska Peninsula & Aleutians	92	13,435	917	30,363	4,834	49,641
North Alaska Peninsula	74	19,586	563	520	1,312	22,055
Westward Region Total	360	50,205	4,654	128,461	12,462	196,142
AYK Region Total	939	1,021	2,717	11	3,835	8,522
Total Alaska	8,633	279,541	24,536	504,832	130,515	948,057

Missing data indicates no harvest, and zeros indicate harvest activity but less than 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, 2007

Region	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho*	Chinook*	Steelhead
Southeast	17,421	89,832	18,169	261,445	82,848	113
Southcentral	445,748	77,457	5,472	444,032	101,059	136
A-Y-K	23,957	1,631	1,407	11,338	8,909	0
Statewide Total	487,126	168,920	25,048	716,815	192,816	249

* Does not include freshwater landlocked coho and chinook.

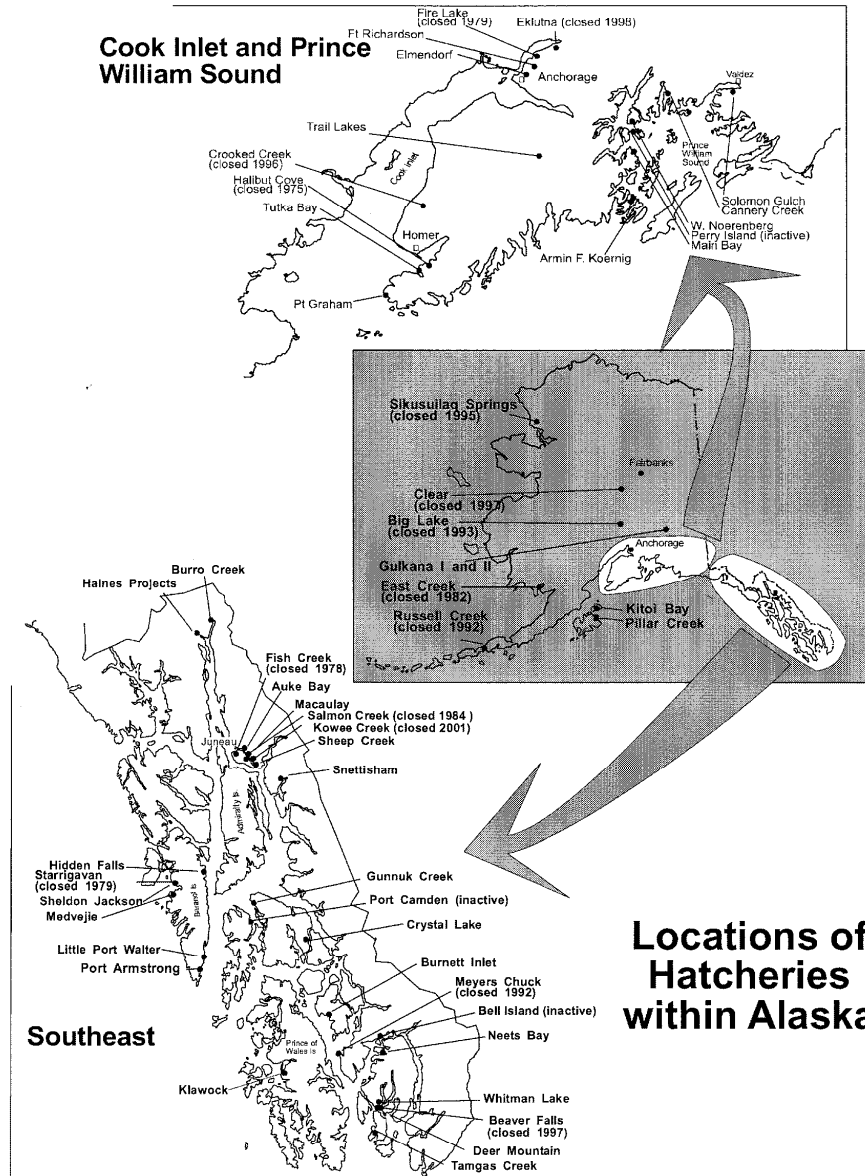


Figure 1. Location of hatcheries within Alaska.

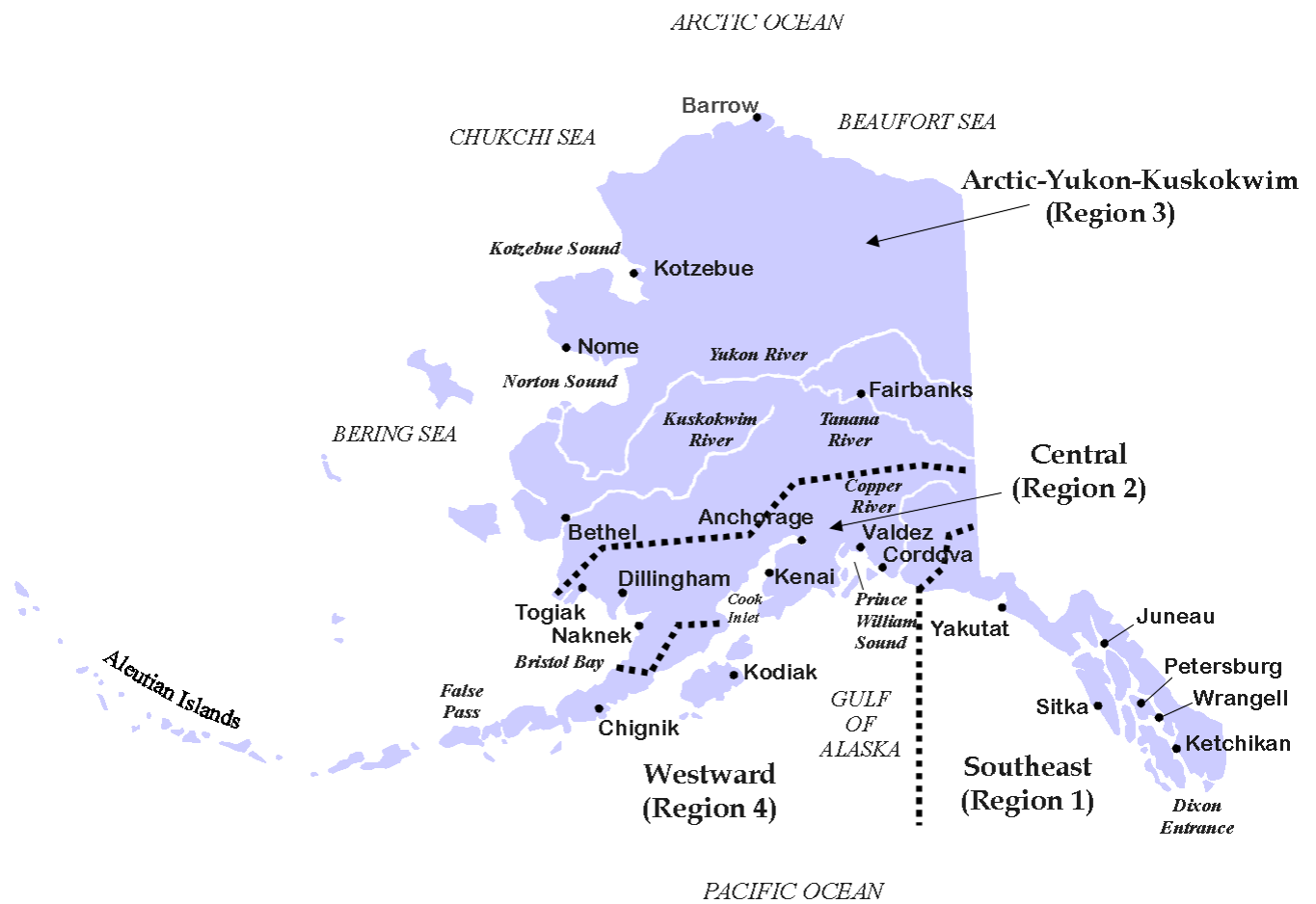


Figure 2. The four fishery management regions (Southeast, Central, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Westward) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries.