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**Alaska Salmon Hatchery Releases,
Commercial Fishery Catch Statistics and Sport Fishery
Harvest Statistics for 2008 Season**

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Hatchery Releases

In 2008 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 1.49 billion fish (Table 1). Of the fish released 55% were pink salmon and 38% were chum salmon. Hatcheries in Prince William Sound contributed 52% and hatcheries in Southeast Alaska contributed 35% of the fish released.

Commercial Catch Statistics

The Alaska salmon harvest of all species combined for 2008 totaled 146.3 million fish, which was about 9.3 million fish greater than the preseason forecast of 137 million and the 16th largest salmon harvest since 1960. In 2008, the overall catch of pink salmon was 84 million compared to the preseason projection of 66 million. Prince William Sound harvested 42 million fish, almost twice the 22 million forecast for that area, however the catch of 15.9 million in Southeast Alaska was below the 20.7 million forecast. Combined chum harvests of 18.3 million approached the projection of 18.7 million. Coho catches were right on forecast at 4.4 million. The biggest shortfall was sockeye salmon, where the harvest of 39 million fish was well below the expected yield of 47 million fish. The Chinook catch of 351,000 was about half the forecast of 672,000. Table 2 shows 2008 harvest numbers by salmon species and fishing area, in units of fish harvested, and Table 3 provides this information in units of tonnes harvested.

The preliminary estimate for the total value of Alaska's 2008 salmon harvest is \$452 million, well above the \$417 million in 2007. While this is below record highs, it is the greatest since \$487 million in 1995.

Sport Fishery Catch Statistics

Sport fishery harvests for 2008 in Alaska are shown 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 2008 by region from Alaska hatcheries, in millions of fish.

Region/Location	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	Steelhead	Total
Southeast Alaska	13.6	67.3	414.3	17.9	9.7	0.0	522.8
Prince William Sound	31.2	610.6	131.5	3.8	0.2		777.4
Cook Inlet	13.0			1.6	1.3		15.8
Kodiak/Ak Pen/Westward	2.6	144.9	21.7	1.5	0.1		170.8
Total	60.4	822.8	567.5	24.7	11.4	0.0	1,486.8

Table 2. Preliminary 2008 Alaska commercial salmon catch by fishing area and species, in thousands of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	
Southeast Region Total	436	15,974	9,053	2,382	247	28,092
Prince William Sound	1,301	42,354	5,076	551	12	49,294
Upper Cook Inlet	2,397	170	51	173	13	2,804
Lower Cook Inlet	408	506	176	3	0	1,092
Bristol Bay	27,678	285	1,260	117	25	29,366
Central Region Total	31,784	43,314	6,562	844	51	82,556
Kodiak	1,822	8,789	908	301	17	11,837
Chignik	687	2,390	209	162	1	3,449
South Alaska Peninsula & Aleutians	2,006	21	177	125	2	2,332
North Alaska Peninsula	2,249	13,510	814	228	4	16,805
Westward Region Total	6,764	24,709	2,109	816	24	34,423
AYK Region Total	113	91	597	421	29	1,252
Total Alaska	39,098	84,090	18,322	4,462	351	146,323

Columns and rows may not total exactly due to rounding.

Table 3. Preliminary 2008 Alaska commercial salmon catch by fishing area and species, in tonnes of fish.

Fishing Area	Species					Total
	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho	Chinook	
Southeast Region Total	1,246	26,671	35,342	8,619	1,684	73,562
Prince William Sound	3,631	65,146	17,860	2,374	120	89,131
Upper Cook Inlet	6,447	293	173	550	142	7,605
Lower Cook Inlet	871	817	653	10	2	2,352
Bristol Bay	72,524	460	3,552	342	174	77,052
Central Region Total	83,473	66,715	22,238	3,276	438	176,140
Kodiak	4,571	14,756	3,465	1,105	63	23,961
Chignik	2,148	3,716	783	585	7	7,239
South Alaska Peninsula & Aleutians	5,561	20,956	2,623	697	34	29,871
North Alaska Peninsula	5,119	34	618	427	13	6,211
Westward Region Total	17,398	39,463	7,490	2,814	116	67,281
AYK Region Total	343	108	1,981	1,342	170	3,944
Total Alaska	102,460	132,957	67,051	16,052	2,408	320,927

Columns and rows may not total exactly due to rounding.

Table 4. Statewide Sport Harvest of Salmon in Alaska by region, freshwater and saltwater combined, 2008.

Fishing Area	Species					Total	
	Sockeye	Pink	Chum	Coho ¹	Chinook ¹		Steelhead
Southeast	14,144	55,684	8,834	230,708	49,265	116	358,751
Southcentral	383,143	70,328	7,989	426,916	77,334	153	965,863
Artic-Yukon-Kuskokwim	12,800	8,534	3,968	18,752	5,658	0	49,712
Total Alaska	410,087	134,546	20,791	676,376	132,257	269	1,374,326

¹ Does not include freshwater landlocked coho and Chinook.

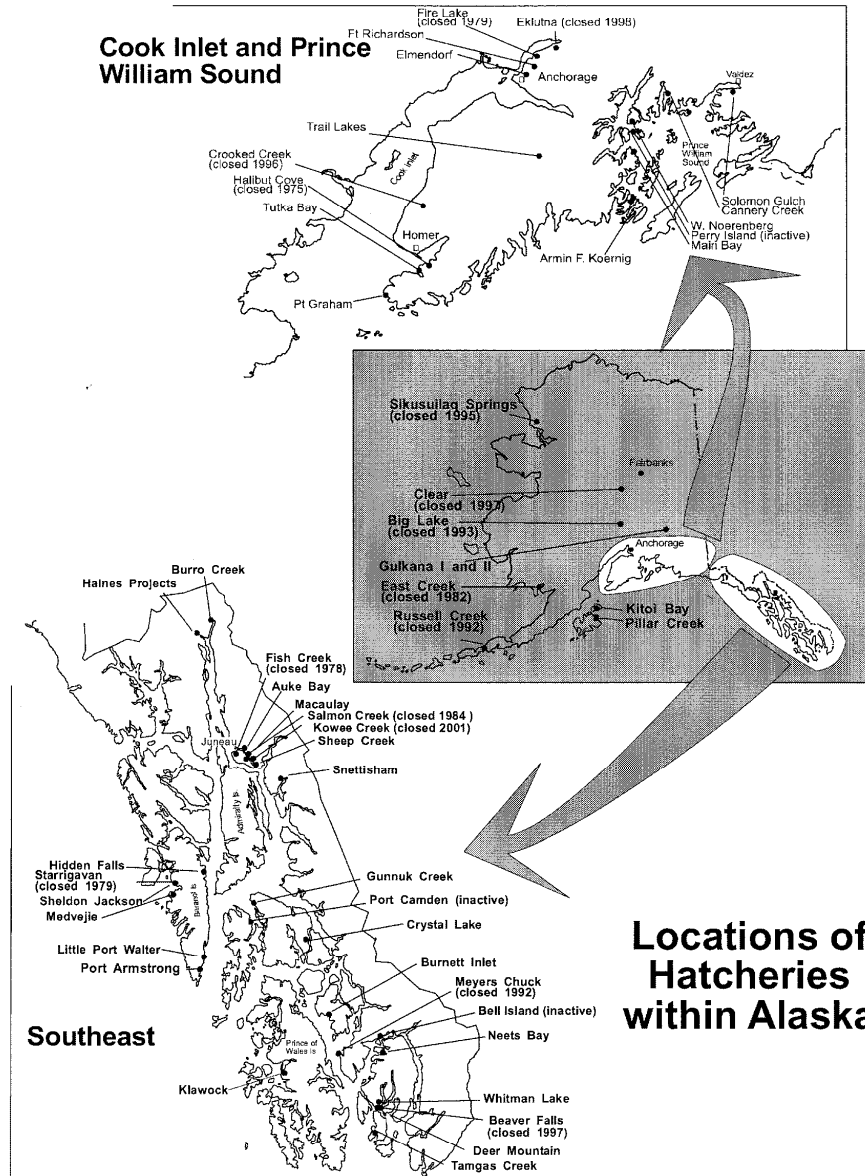


Figure 1. Location of hatcheries within Alaska.

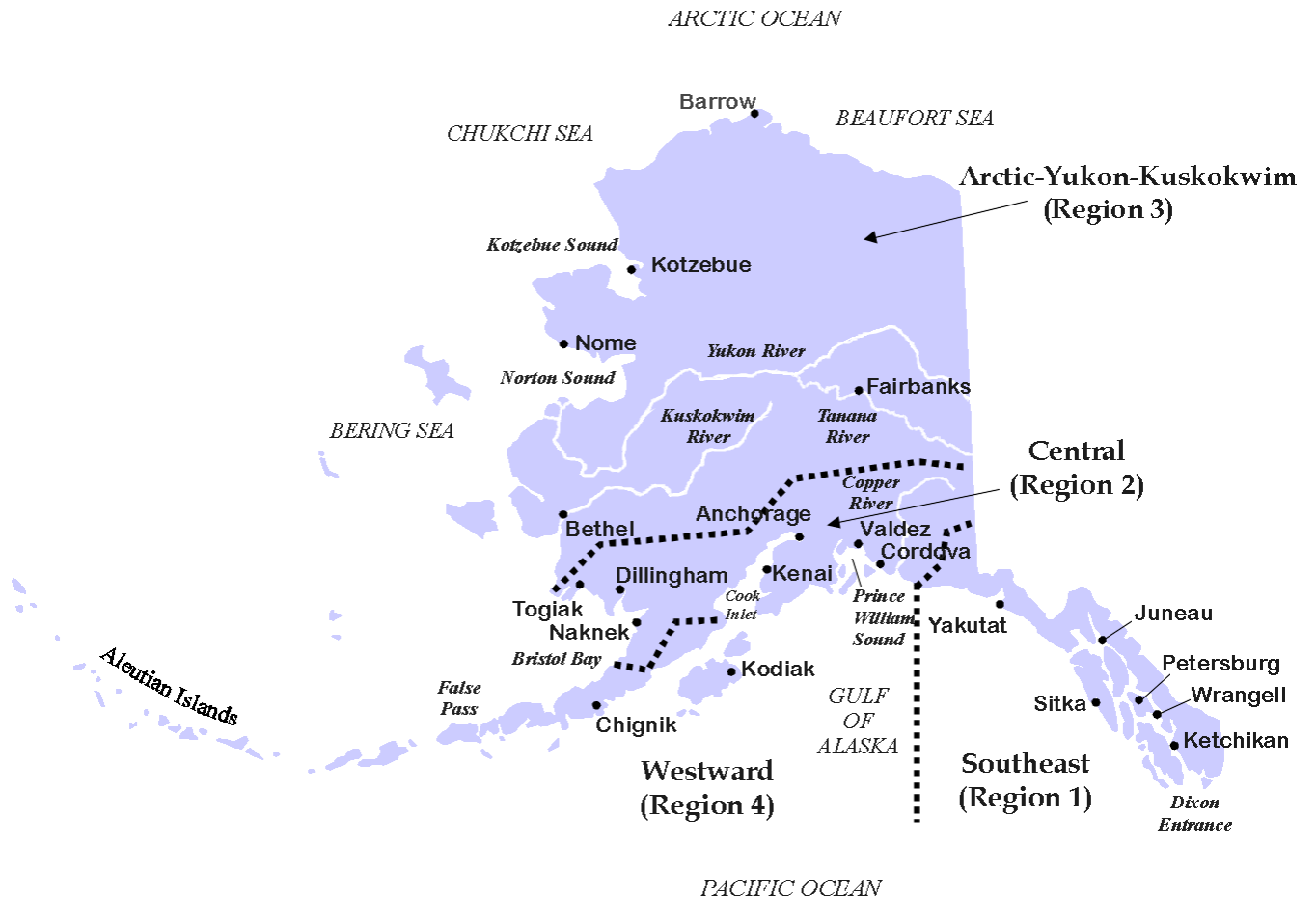


Figure 2. The four fishery management regions (Southeast, Central, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Westward) of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries.