

State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Division of Commercial Fisheries



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PRESS RELEASE

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2017 SALMON HARVEST SUMMARY

(Juneau) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has compiled [preliminary harvest and value figures for the 2017 Alaska commercial salmon fishery](#) (PDF 130 kB). Although there are still fish being caught, the majority of 2017 salmon fisheries have ended. The 2017 commercial salmon fishery all species harvest was 224.6 million wild salmon with an estimated preliminary exvessel value of \$678.8 million, a 66.7% increase from 2016's value of \$407.3 million. Of this total, sockeye salmon again came in as the most valuable species, accounting for 48% of the value at \$326.1 million and 23% of the harvest at 52.4 million fish. Pink salmon accounted for 25% of the value at \$169.0 million, and 63% of the harvest at 141.6 million fish. Chum salmon accounted for 19% of the value at \$128.3 million and 11% of the harvest at 25.2 million fish. Coho salmon accounted for 6% of the value at \$37.6 million and 2% of the harvest at 5.1 million fish. The Chinook salmon harvest was 251,141 fish with an estimated preliminary value of \$17.8 million.

Forrest Bowers, Deputy Director of the Division of Commercial Fisheries characterized the 2017 Alaska salmon season as a banner year for the industry and State of Alaska. "Tremendous harvests occurred across Alaska – from Kotzebue to Southeast, highlighted by an all-time record statewide chum salmon harvest. In addition, 2017 is the third year in a row statewide sockeye salmon harvest exceeded 50 million fish. Record wild salmon harvests like these are a testament to Alaska's sound, science-based management, the professionalism of ADF&G's staff, and thoughtful stakeholder engagement."

In terms of pounds of fish, the all species wild salmon harvest of 1,041.0 million pounds ranks third in from [1975-2017](#) and is only the third time harvest has exceed 1 billion pounds. In terms of exvessel value, the all species harvest of \$678.8 million ranks third from 1975-2017. This year's chum salmon harvest of 25.2 million fish is the [largest harvest ever](#). Along with record breaking numbers, this year's chum salmon exvessel value, of \$128.3 million ranks second best from 1975-2017. This year's pink salmon harvest ranks third in terms of exvessel value and fourth in terms of poundage.

Bristol Bay enjoyed another great sockeye salmon season with 37.7 million sockeye salmon valued at \$209.9 million. Not to be outdone by Bristol Bay, other fisheries experienced record salmon harvest in 2017, notably in Norton Sound where a strong coho salmon return provided a new record harvest of 191,000 coho salmon, in Chignik where the pink salmon harvest of just over 7 million wild pink salmon is a new record, and in the Alaska Peninsula where the harvest of nearly 22 million wild pink salmon is a new record.

Please note that these are preliminary harvest and value estimates that will change as fish tickets are processed and finalized. Dollar values provided by ADF&G are based on estimated ex-vessel prices and do not include post-season bonuses or price adjustments. The final value of the 2017 salmon fishery will be determined in 2018 after seafood processors, buyers, and direct marketers report the total value paid to fishermen in 2017.

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