

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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2014 BRISTOL BAY SALMON SEASON SUMMARY

The following is an overview of the 2014 Bristol Bay commercial salmon season. All data are preliminary.

The 2014 inshore Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run of 40.6 million fish ranks 7th out of the last 20 years (1994–2013) and was 17% above the 34.7 million average run for the same period. This year's sockeye run was 53% above the preseason inshore forecast of 26.6 million fish. Togiak was the only district to come in lower than preseason forecast with Naknek/Kvichak, Egegik, Ugashik, and Nushagak districts all larger than predicted. The 28.8 million sockeye salmon commercial harvest was 61% above the 17.9 million preseason forecast. All escapement goals were met with a total sockeye salmon escapement of 11.8 million fish. Approximately 13,000 Chinook salmon were harvested in Bristol Bay in 2014. The preliminary harvest for other species was; chum salmon 557,000 fish, coho salmon 266,000 fish, and pink salmon 1.3million fish.

EXVESSEL VALUE

The Bristol Bay 2014 harvest of all salmon species was 30.9 million fish with a preliminary exvessel value of \$197 million which is 79% above the 20-year average of \$110 million and the highest over that same period. The exvessel value record is \$202 million in 1990. The weights, harvests, and prices listed in Table 1 were used to estimate exvessel value. Prices are an average of post-season processor final operations reports. This estimate does not include future price adjustments.

Table 1.—Average price, weight, harvest, and value of salmon harvest in Bristol Bay, 2014

Species	Price/lb	Weight (lb)	Number of Fish	Total Weight	Value
Sockeye	\$1.20	5.6	28,809,695	160,576,037	\$192,691,244
Chinook	\$0.80	14.9	12,761	189,664	\$151,731
Chum	\$0.30	6.2	556,759	3,459,244	\$1,037,773
Pink	\$0.28	3.5	1,302,446	4,532,526	\$1,269,107
Coho	\$0.90	6.0	266,385	1,590,537	\$1,431,483
Totals			30,948,046	170,348,008	\$196,581,338

ALLOCATION

The 2014 season was the 17th year of managing drift and set gillnet sockeye salmon harvest allocation in four of the five districts in Bristol Bay. Togiak District is excluded from the allocation plan. Table 2 lists current regulatory allocations and harvests by gear group for the 2014 season. Strategies used to achieve allocation between gear groups included varying the amount of fishing time and providing separate gear group openings.

Table 2.—Allocation of Bristol Bay drift and set gillnet harvest, 2014.^a

District	Drift Gillnet	District Set Gillnet	Section Set Gillnet
	Percent of Harvest	Percent of Harvest	Percent of Harvest
	Allocated /Caught	Allocated /Caught	Allocated /Caught
Naknek/Kvichak	84% / 83%	16% / 17%	Naknek: 8% / 9%
			Kvichak: 8% / 8%
Egegik	86% / 89%	14% / 11%	Not applicable
Ugashik	90% / 83%	10% / 17%	Not applicable
Nushagak ^a	74% / 73 %	26% / 27%	Nushagak: 20% / 20%
			Igushik: 6% / 7%

a- Harvest opportunity within Wood River Special Harvest Area is determined by inseason allocation within the full district.

SPECIES PERFORMANCE

Sockeye Salmon

The 2014 inshore sockeye salmon run of 40.6 million fish was 53% above the preseason inshore forecast of 26.6 million. Actual runs versus forecasts by district with percent difference from forecast are listed in Table 3. Table 4 compares the 2014 harvest to recent 20-year averages for all districts. Sockeye salmon escapements were met or exceeded in all systems (Table 5). The Naknek, Wood, and Igushik rivers were above the established escapement goal ranges while all other systems were within ranges.

Table 3.—Difference of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon actual run versus forecast, 2014.

District	Inshore Forecast	Inshore Run	% Difference from Forecast
Naknek/Kvichak	10,510,000	19,661,944	87% Above
Egegik	4,650,000	8,327,389	79% Above
Ugashik	1,810,000	2,112,525	17% Above
Nushagak	8,880,000	9,961,404	12% Above
Togiak	720,000	577,656	20% Below
Totals	26,580,000	40,640,918	53% Above

Table 4.—2014 preliminary commercial sockeye salmon harvests and 20-year averages by district.

District	1994–2013 Average Sockeye Harvest	2014 Sockeye Harvest
Naknek/Kvichak	7,876,000	13,728,976
Egegik	7,933,000	6,944,923
Nushagak	5,709,000	6,237,707
Ugashik	2,696,000	1,472,367
Togiak	543,000	425,722
Totals	24,765,000	28,809,695

Table 5.—Bristol Bay sockeye salmon goals and escapement, 2014.

River System	Goal Range	Escapement
Kvichak River	2,000,000–10,000,000	4,458,540
Naknek River	800,000–1,400,000	1,474,428
Egegik River	800,000–1,400,000	1,382,466
Ugashik River	500,000–1,200,000	640,158
Nushagak River	370,000–840,000	618,493
Wood River	700,000–1,500,000	2,764,614
Igushik River	150,000–300,000	340,590
Togiak River	120,000–270,000	151,934
Total		11,831,223

The 2014 Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run was above forecast in all systems except Togiak. Total sockeye harvest and total inshore run were 61% and 53% above forecast respectively. Because of large escapements the Wood River Special Harvest Area (WRSHA) was opened at 12:00 noon on June 28 and was fished continuously until the end of the season. Both set and drift gillnets were permitted to fish the WRSHA, but harvest information is confidential because of a limited number of buyers.

Chinook Salmon

Chinook salmon harvests in Bristol Bay were below average in every district. Four directed Chinook salmon fishing periods occurred in the Nushagak District between June 11 and June 19 with a harvest of 3,700 fish. Chinook salmon are also caught during directed sockeye periods in all commercial districts and approximately 13,000 fish were harvested, 79% below the 20 year average of 61,000 (Table 6). Chinook salmon escapement into the Nushagak River was 70,482 and within the escapement goal range of 55,000 to 120,000.

Table 6.—Chinook salmon preliminary harvest data and 20-year averages by district.

District	1994–2013 Average Chinook salmon Harvest	2014 Chinook salmon Harvest
Naknek/Kvichak	2,022	381
Egegik	704	34
Ugashik	1,081	51
Nushagak	48,916	10,819
Togiak	7,872	1,476
Totals	60,594	12,761

Chum Salmon

The 2014 preliminary Bristol Bay chum salmon harvest of 557,000 fish was 41% below the 20-year average of 945,000 fish (Table 7). All districts were below their 20 year average harvest. Nushagak District was the largest producer of chum salmon, where just over 348,000 fish were harvested.

Pink Salmon The harvest of 1.3 million pink salmon was the 2nd largest harvest in the last 20 years and 443% above the 20-year average of 294,000 fish for even numbered years since 1994 (Table 7). The majority of those fish were from the Nushagak District with a harvest of 1.2 million pink salmon.

Coho Salmon

The total coho salmon harvest was 266,000 fish, of which 241,000 were harvested in the Nushagak District (Table 7). This is the largest coho salmon harvest in the last 20 years and 341% above the 20-year average of 78,000 fish.

Table 7.—Preliminary 2014 Bristol Bay salmon harvest and escapement by district and species.

District	Sockeye	Chinook	Chum	Pink	Coho	Total
Naknek/Kvichak Catch	13,728,976	381	72,931	7,219	616	13,810,123
Escapement-KvichakTwr.	4,458,540	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,458,540
Naknek Twr.	1,474,428	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,474,428
Naknek Kvichak Subtotal	19,661,944	381	72,931	7,219	616	19,743,091
Egegik Catch	6,944,923	34	24,884	0	8,773	6,978,614
Escapement-Egegik Twr.	1,382,466	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,382,466
Egegik Subtotal	8,327,389	34	24,884	0	8,773	8,361,080
Ugashik Catch	1,472,367	51	14,766	2	219	1,487,405
Escapement-Ugashik Twr.	640,158	NA	NA	NA	NA	640,158
Ugashik Subtotal	2,112,525	51	14,766	2	219	2,127,563
Nushagak Catch	6,237,707	10,819	348,743	1,187,061	241,014	8,025,344
Escapement- Wood Twr.	2,764,614	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,764,614
Igushik	340,590	NA	NA	NA	NA	340,590
Nushagak	618,493	70,482	525,797	2,281,831	478,198	3,978,979
Nushagak Subtotal	9,961,404	81,301	874,540	3,468,892	719,212	15,105,349
Togiak Catch	425,722	1,476	95,435	108,164	15,763	646,560
Escapement - Togiak Twr.	151,934	NA	NA	NA	NA	151,934
Togiak R. & Trib.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Kulukak	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Togiak Subtotal	577,656	1,476	95,435	108,164	15,763	798,494
Bristol Bay Catch	28,809,695	12,761	556,759	1,302,446	266,385	30,948,046
Bristol Bay Escapement	11,831,223	74,660	525,797	2,281,831	478,198	15,191,709
Bristol Bay Total Run	40,640,918	81,767	1,082,556	3,584,277	744,583	46,134,101

Note: Escapement data for coho are incomplete (in most cases the data are escapement index counts). Total run data do not include sport or subsistence harvests.