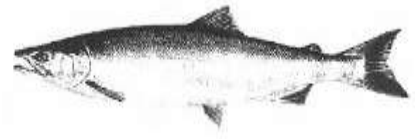


**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**



NEWS RELEASE

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Lower Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery News Release #29- revised

The Outer, Eastern, Southern, and Kamishak Bay districts will close to purse seine harvest for the 2015 season at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, September 20. The set gillnet fishery in the Southern District remains open through September 30. There have been no commercial deliveries reported since September 8 for purse seine, and August 25 for set gillnet. Subsistence harvest in the Port Chatham and Windy Bay subdistricts closed on August 1. However, subsistence harvest remains open through September 30 in the Port Graham and Dogfish Bay (Koyuktolik) subdistricts.

The preliminary estimate of the 2015 Lower Cook Inlet Area commercial salmon harvest, based on current fish ticket data, was 6,904,402 salmon. The harvest was composed of 6,526,903 pink, 259,374 sockeye, 112,475 chum, 4,779 coho, and 871 Chinook salmon. The harvest was comprised of 4.5 million (65.4%) commercial common property fishery (CPF) fish, and 2.4 million (34.6%) hatchery cost recovery and broodstock fish.

Southern District

The 2015 preseason commercial common property harvest forecast for natural production in the Southern District was 40,700 sockeye and 26,000 pink salmon. Hatchery salmon runs were anticipated to contribute to Southern District commercial common property harvest in 2015 only if hatchery salmon runs to Resurrection Bay were sufficient to fully meet cost recovery needs. The commercial salmon fishing season in the Southern District began on Monday, June 1. The preliminary purse seine harvest estimate for the 2015 season was 52 Chinook, 54,783 sockeye, 984 coho, 141,389 pink, and 1,448 chum salmon. This compares to a previous 10-year average harvest of 42 Chinook, 30,878 sockeye, 610 coho, 31,944 pink, and 486 chum salmon. The preliminary set gillnet harvest estimate was 752 Chinook, 35,883 sockeye, 3,083 coho, 27,554 pink, and 11,498 chum salmon. The previous 10-year average harvest for this gear type was 254 Chinook, 24,275 sockeye, 1,168 coho, 3,774 pink, and 2,087 chum salmon. In addition, 42,422 sockeye, and 2.2 million pink salmon were harvested by Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) from the Tutka Lagoon Special Harvest Area (SHA) for cost recovery purposes. Preliminary passage estimate at the English Bay River weir is 6,290 sockeye salmon, which was within the SEG of 6,000–13,500 for this system.

Kamishak Bay District

The 2015 preseason wild stock commercial harvest forecast for the Kamishak Bay District was 37,900 sockeye and 16,800 chum salmon. CIAA forecasted a run of 39,500 sockeye salmon to the Kirschner Lake remote release site. Total preliminary estimated common property harvest was 33,735 pink, and 626 chum salmon. In addition, 21,979 sockeye salmon were harvested by CIAA from the Kirschner Lake SHA for cost recovery and broodstock purposes. This compares to a previous 10-year average of 70,093 sockeye, 29,547 pink, and 33,412 chum salmon harvested in the common property fishery. Video enumeration at Chenik Lake documented 19,073 sockeye salmon, which was above the SEG range of 3,500–14,000 fish. Video documentation of salmon returning to Mikfik Lake resulted in a final escapement estimate of 3,502 sockeye salmon, which was within the SEG range of 3,400–13,000 fish for this species.

Outer District

The 2015 preseason commercial harvest forecast for the Outer District was 14,800 sockeye, 370,000 pink, and 41,700 chum salmon. The commercial salmon fishing season began in this district on Monday, July 13. Overall preliminary estimated harvest from 19 permit holders that participated was 613 sockeye, 4,096,578 pink, and 97,035 chum salmon. This harvest compares to previous 10-year averages of 11,119 sockeye, 557,843 pink, and 36,970 chum salmon.

Eastern District

Due to small runs in the last 10 years, no wild stock sockeye or pink salmon were forecast to be available for commercial common property harvest from the Eastern District in 2015. CIAA forecasted a total run of 322,737 sockeye salmon to Resurrection Bay facilities with all of these fish intended for broodstock or cost recovery purposes. Total cost recovery harvest from this district was 92,776 sockeye salmon with 2,062 donated at the weir to members of the public. Commercial common property harvests occurred from July 2-17 with a preliminary estimate of 4,633 sockeye salmon harvested by 3 permit holders. Escapement of 13,505 sockeye salmon through the weir at Bear Creek surpassed the “desired inriver passage” goal of 5,620–13,220 sockeye salmon. This goal is the combination of the SEG (700–8,300) as well as the estimated 4,920 sockeye salmon required for broodstock for the CIAA Resurrection Bay sockeye salmon program at the Trail Lakes Hatchery.

Table 1. Lower Cook Inlet commercial salmon harvest based on preliminary fish ticket data, 2015.

| District (or hatchery) | Permits | Chinook | Sockeye | Coho | Pink | Chum | Total |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Southern District | 15 | 52 | 54,783 | 984 | 141,389 | 1,448 | 198,656 |
| Outer District | 19 | | 613 | 41 | 4,096,578 | 97,035 | 4,194,267 |
| Eastern District | 3 | | 4,633 | | 155 | 115 | 4,903 |
| Kamishak Bay District | 2 | | | | 33,735 | 626 | 34,361 |
| Purse seine preliminary total | 19 | 52 | 60,029 | 1,025 | 4,271,857 | 99,224 | 4,432,187 |
| Southern District | 24 | 752 | 35,883 | 3,083 | 27,554 | 11,498 | 78,770 |
| Set gillnet preliminary total | 24 | 752 | 35,883 | 3,083 | 27,554 | 11,498 | 78,770 |
| Commercial homepacks | | 67 | 278 | 471 | 401 | 28 | 1,245 |
| Commercial common property preliminary total | | 871 | 96,190 | 4,579 | 4,299,812 | 110,750 | 4,512,202 |
| Hatchery cost recovery preliminary harvests | | | | | | | |
| Tutka Lagoon SHA | | | 31,124 | 199 | 2,048,964 | 1,725 | 2,082,012 |
| Resurrection Bay SHA | | | 57,017 | | | | 57,017 |
| Bear Lake SHA | | | 35,759 | 1 | | | 35,760 |
| Kirschner Lake SHA | | | 18,313 | | 1,560 | | 19,873 |
| Hatchery broodstock preliminary harvests | | | | | | | |
| Tutka Lagoon SHA | | | 11,298 | | 176,567 | | 187,865 |
| Port Graham SHA | | | | | 0 ^a | | 0 |
| Kirschner SHA | | | 3,666 | | | | 3,666 |
| Bruin River | | | | | 0 | | 0 |
| Bear Lake SHA | | | 3,945 | na | | | 3,945 |
| donated- Bear Lake SHA | | | 2,062 | | | | 2,062 |
| Hatchery preliminary total | | 0 | 163,184 | 200 | 2,227,091 | 1,725 | 2,392,200 |
| LCI preliminary total harvest | | 871 | 259,374 | 4,779 | 6,526,903 | 112,475 | 6,904,402 |

^a A preliminary total of 45,000 pink salmon were harvested in the Port Graham Subdistrict in common property fisheries and sold live to CIAA for use as broodstock. These fish were reported as CPF harvests and are included in the CPF total harvest. These fish are not included in the hatchery total harvest.