

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



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner  
Scott Kelley, Director*



Contact:  
Division of Commercial Fisheries  
Bristol Bay Area Management Staff  
Phone: (907) 267-2105 or 842-5227  
Fax: (907) 267-2442 or 842-5937

333 Raspberry Rd  
Anchorage, AK 99613  
P.O. Box 230  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
Date Issued: September 9, 2016

**\*REVISED\***  
**2016 BRISTOL BAY SALMON SEASON SUMMARY**

The following is an overview of the 2016 Bristol Bay commercial salmon season. All data are preliminary.

The 2016 inshore Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run of 51.4 million fish ranks 2nd out of the last 20 years (1996–2015) and was 46% above the 35.1 million average run for the same period. This year's Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run was 10% above the preseason inshore forecast of 46.6 million fish. The Egegik, Nushagak, Togiak and Ugashik districts were higher than the preseason forecast while Naknek-Kvichak district was less than predicted. The 37.3 million sockeye salmon commercial harvest was 26% above the 29.5 million preseason forecast. All escapement goals were met or exceeded, with a total sockeye salmon escapement of 14.1 million fish. A total of 29,545 Chinook salmon were harvested in Bristol Bay in 2016. The harvests for other species are 1,042,345 chum salmon; 91,387 coho salmon; and 751,756 pink salmon. The 2016 sockeye salmon run timing was similar to 2015 as it was one of the latest on record, approximately 7 days late. Fish weights and lengths were smaller than the historical average with an average sockeye salmon weight of 5.4 pounds, but overall fish were slightly larger than 2015.

***EXVESSEL VALUE***

The Bristol Bay 2016 harvest of all salmon species was 39.2 million fish, ranking first over the last 20 years (1996-2015) and worth a preliminary exvessel value of \$156.2 million, 40% above the 20-year average of \$111.0 million. 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 for icing, bleeding, or production bonuses.

Table 1.–Average price, weight, harvest, and value of salmon harvest in Bristol Bay, 2016.

Species	Price/lb	Weight (lb)	Number of Fish	Total Weight	Value
Sockeye	\$0.76	5.4	37,330,419	201,584,263	\$153,204,040
Chinook	\$0.67	12.6	29,545	372,267	\$249,419
Chum	\$0.32	6.0	1,042,345	6,254,070	\$2,001,302
Pink	\$0.15	4.0	751,756	3,007,024	\$451,054
Coho	\$0.49	5.8	91,387	530,045	\$259,722
Totals			39,245,452	211,747,669	\$156,165,537

### *ALLOCATION*

Fisheries are managed to achieve allocation between drift and set gillnet gear groups in four of five districts. Togiak District is excluded from the allocation plan. Table 2 lists current regulatory allocations and harvests by gear group for the 2016 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, 2016.

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% / 8% Kvichak: 8% / 9%
Egegik	86% / 82%	14% / 18%	Not applicable
Ugashik	90% / 91%	10% / 9%	Not applicable
Nushagak <sup>a</sup>	74% / 67%	26% / 33%	Nushagak: 20% / 22% Igushik: 6% / 11%

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

### *SPECIES PERFORMANCE*

#### Sockeye Salmon

This year's Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run of 51.4 million fish was 10% above the preseason inshore forecast of 46.6 million fish (Table 3). The 2016 harvest was 64% higher than the recent 20 year average for all districts (Table 4). Sockeye salmon escapement goals were met in all systems except Ugashik and Igushik, where the escapement goal ranges were exceeded (Table 5).

Table 3.–Difference of Bristol Bay sockeye salmon actual run versus forecast, 2016.

District	Inshore Forecast	Inshore Run	% Difference from Forecast
Naknek-Kvichak	23,170,000	21,390,723	8% Below
Egegik	7,410,000	10,317,221	39% Above
Ugashik	4,950,000	8,400,839	70% Above
Nushagak	10,360,000	10,472,595	1% Above
Togiak	660,000	811,526	23% Above
Totals	46,550,000	51,392,903	10% Above

Table 4.–2016 preliminary commercial sockeye salmon harvests and 20-year averages by district.

District	1996–2015 Average Sockeye Harvest	2016 Sockeye Harvest
Naknek-Kvichak	7,367,267	13,460,265
Egegik	6,625,483	8,479,961
Ugashik	2,504,515	6,765,569
Nushagak	5,813,327	8,013,145
Togiak	530,008	611,480
Totals	22,747,955	37,330,419

Table 5.–Bristol Bay sockeye salmon goals and escapement, 2016.

River System	Goal Range	Escapement
Kvichak River	2,000,000–10,000,000	4,462,728
Naknek River	800,000–2,000,000	1,691,910
Alagnak River	320,000 minimum	1,775,820 <sup>a</sup>
Egegik River	800,000–2,000,000	1,837,260
Ugashik River	500,000–1,400,000	1,635,270
Nushagak River	370,000–900,000	680,513
Wood River	700,000–1,800,000	1,309,707
Igushik River	150,000–400,000	469,230
Togiak River	120,000–270,000	200,046
Total		14,062,484

<sup>a</sup> Expanded aerial survey estimate.

### Chinook Salmon

Chinook salmon harvests in Bristol Bay were below average in Nushagak, Togiak and Egegik districts (Table 6). No directed Chinook salmon fishing periods occurred in the Nushagak District in 2016. Chinook salmon were caught during directed sockeye periods in all commercial districts and approximately 29,570 fish were harvested, 60% of the 20-year average of 49,368 (Table 6). Chinook salmon escapement into the Nushagak River was 125,368 and above the escapement goal range of 55,000 to 120,000. The Chinook salmon escapement into the Alagnak River was 1,283 based on aerial surveys and was below the lower bound escapement goal of 2,700.

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

District	1996–2015 Average Chinook Salmon Harvest	2016 Chinook Salmon Harvest
Naknek/Kvichak	1,785	1,473
Egegik	693	289
Ugashik	852	1,146
Nushagak	42,488	23,100
Togiak	6,587	3,562
Totals	49,368	29,570

### Chum Salmon

The 2016 preliminary Bristol Bay chum salmon harvest was 1,042,345 fish (Table 7). Harvest in all districts was slightly above the 20-year average harvest. Nushagak District was the largest producer of chum salmon, where 527,753 fish were harvested.

### Pink Salmon

Pink salmon return to Bristol Bay in even years. The preliminary harvest in 2016 was 751,756 fish. The majority of pink salmon are harvested in the Togiak and Nushagak districts.

### Coho Salmon

The preliminary total coho salmon harvest in 2016 was 91,387 fish (Table 7). Typically the Nushagak District is the largest coho salmon producer. The 80,144 harvested in the Nushagak District was above the 20-year average.

### Acknowledgements

The department would like thank the following organizations for funding assistance and operating fishery monitoring programs: Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association (BBRSDA), Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), Bristol Bay Regional Science and Research Institute (BBSRI), Trident, Peter Pan, Manokotak Village Council, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), Dylan Braund, Togiak Traditional Council, Twin Hills Village Council, North Pacific Seafoods, American President Line, and Copper River Seafoods. BBRSDA contributed \$225,000 towards management of 2016 Bristol Bay commercial fisheries. Without this contribution operational funds to manage the fishery would have been obtained through cost recovery test fishing. The Bristol Bay management program budget has been reduced 17% over the last two years and the department anticipates additional cuts in 2017. As such the participation of these groups in funding core management projects is invaluable.

Table 7.—Preliminary 2016 Bristol Bay salmon harvest and escapement by district and species.

District	Sockeye	Chinook	Chum	Pink	Coho	TOTAL
Naknek-Kvichak Catch	13,460,265	1,473	190,396	9,831	1,087	13,663,052
Escapement-KvichakTwr.	4,462,728	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	4,462,728
Naknek Twr.	1,691,910	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1,691,910
Alagnak survey	1,775,820	1,283	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1,777,103
NK Subtotal	21,390,723	1,473	190,396	9,831	1,087	21,593,510
Egegik Catch	8,479,961	289	75,918	0	0	8,556,168
Escapement-Egegik Twr.	1,837,260	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1,837,260
Egegik Subtotal	10,317,221	289	75,918	0	0	10,393,428
Ugashik Catch	6,765,569	1,146	68,945	0	<sup>a</sup>	6,835,660
Escapement-Ugashik Twr.	1,635,270	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1,635,270
Ugashik Subtotal	8,400,839	1,146	68,945	0	0	8,470,930
Nushagak Catch	8,013,145	23,060	527,753	531,078	80,144	9,175,180
Escapement- Wood Twr.	1,309,707	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1,309,707
Igushik	469,230	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	469,230
Nushagak	680,513	125,368	289,107	N.A.	N.A.	1,094,988
Nushagak Subtotal	10,472,595	148,428	816,860	531,078	80,144	12,049,105
Togiak Catch	611,480	3,577	179,332	210,847	10,156	1,015,392
Escapement - Togiak Twr.	200,046	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	200,046
Togiak R. & Trib.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	0
Kulukak	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	0
Togiak Subtotal	811,526	3,577	179,332	210,847	10,156	1,215,438
Bristol Bay Catch	37,330,419	29,545	1,042,345	751,756	91,387	39,245,452
Bristol Bay Escapement	14,062,484	126,651	289,107	N.A.	N.A.	14,478,242
Bristol Bay Total Run	51,392,903	156,196	1,331,452	751,756	91,387	53,723,694

<sup>a</sup> Ugashik coho harvest is confidential.